The Silver Series of Classics

SESAME AND LILIES

RUSKIN

EDITED BY

AGNES SPOFFORD COOK

Silver, Burdett & Company

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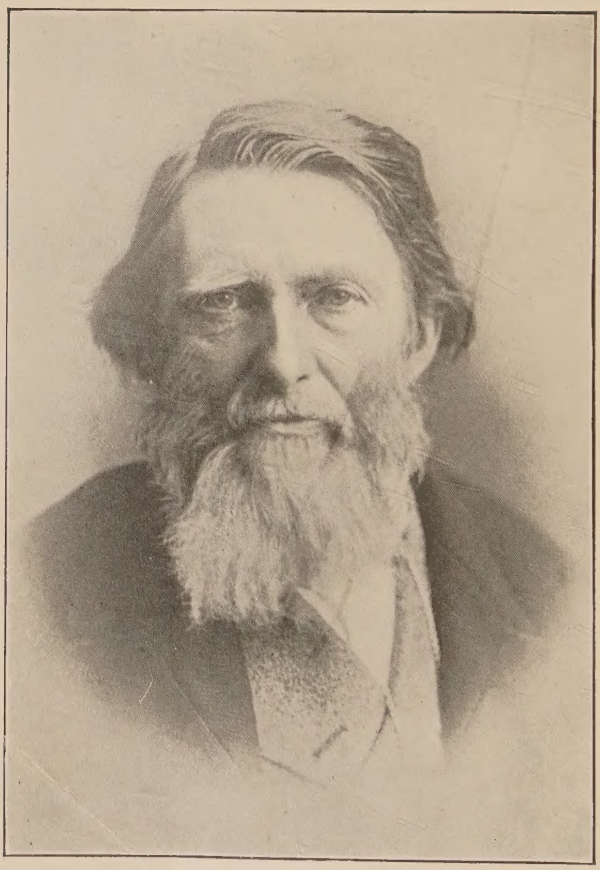

JOHN RUSKIN.

The Silver Series of English and American Classics

JOHN RUSKIN'S

SESAME AND LILIES

EDITED, WITH INTRODUCTION AND NOTES

BY

AGNES SPOFFORD COOK, A.B.

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EDITOR'S PREFACE.

It is not the function of annotation to take away from the student the pleasure of finding out for himself the full beauty of half-hidden allusion and happy illustration in the text. But the average high school student has access to few books of reference, and without the aid of notes to such a text as *Sesame and Lilies* he is sure to pass unheeding the delicate blossoms of fantasy and figure, gathered from the world-old garden of beautiful thoughts. "The ethereal Ruskin" must be read understandingly or not at all. And no author is more replete with others' thoughts, absorbed in the chrysalis state, and reëmbodied with wings. The student will find in the notes a number of quotations from *Unto this Last* and from others of Ruskin's writings, which serve better than any editing to interpret their brother paragraphs in *Sesame and Lilies.*

The two lectures called collectively *Sesame and Lilies* were written soon after the great turning-point in Ruskin's life, when he had come to believe that the reason why the English people could not appreciate beautiful art was because English life failed to develop beautiful characters. He has given this idea such noble expression in these

lectures that they will always rank, not only as his finest pieces of writing, but as specimens of the highest development of modern prose.

It is suggested that the best way to read these two lectures on "Books and Women," as Professor Norton puts it, is to read them first with only the aid of the understanding sympathy which one's own mind may furnish. If the student finds this sufficient, well and good. But let him then look through the notes for postscripts from the other works; and if he chances upon a word that makes brighter one of those multitudinous "side lights of allusion," the editor's purpose will be justified.

It is with pleasure that acknowledgment is made to Professor Charles Eliot Norton of Cambridge, Mr. W. G. Collingwood of Brantwood, Coniston, England, Mr. James P. Smart, Jr., Secretary of the Ruskin Society in London, Miss Vida D. Scudder of Wellesley College, Professor Myra Reynolds of the University of Chicago, and the Rev. Emil G. Hirsch and Mr. Edward Manley, of Chicago, for helpful suggestions upon difficult points in the text.

A. S. C.

De Kalb, Illinois, August, 1900.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

JOHN RUSKIN was born in London, February 8, 1819, and died at Brantwood, Coniston, January 20, 1900.

His parents were Scotch. His biographer says: "The religious instinct so conspicuous in him is an inheritance from Scotland;" and again: "The combination of shrewd common sense and romantic sentiment; the oscillation between levity and dignity, from caustic jest to tender earnest; the restlessness, the fervor, the impetuosity,—all these are characteristics of a Scotsman of parts, and highly developed in Ruskin."

His rather isolated boyhood was passed in quiet study, under his mother's tutorship; and it is because of those long winter mornings spent with her that his writings are full to the brim of biblical phrase and thought. She made him read the Bible through, word by word, at least once a year, and he committed many chapters to memory. "And truly," he says in *Præterita*, his autobiography, "though I have picked up a little further knowledge in later life, and owe not a little to the teaching of many people, this maternal installation of my mind in that property of chapters, I count very confidently the most precious, and, on the whole, the one *essential* part of all my education."

The monotony of the boy's lessons was varied for him in the summer by the delightful annual excursions which the whole family made, driving in an old-fashioned travelling coach over the hills and dales of England, for the purpose of taking orders for the father's business. Mr. John James Ruskin was a manufacturer and importer of Spanish wines. It was on these summer tours that John Ruskin, aged seven, began to write descriptions of hills, clouds, valleys, and people. He kept a journal and put down everything he saw with his joyous child's eyes and his wonderfully mature imagination. "It is not possible to imagine," he says, "a more blessed entrance into life for a child of such a temperament as mine. True, the temperament belonged to the age: a very few years before that, no child could have been born to care for mountains, or for the men that lived among them, in that way. Till Rousseau's time, there had been no 'sentimental' love of nature; and till Scott's, no such apprehensive love of 'all sorts and conditions of men,' not in the soul merely, but in the flesh. For me, the Alps and their people were alike beautiful in their snow and their humanity; and I wanted, neither for them nor myself, sight of any thrones in heaven but the rocks, or of any spirits in heaven but the clouds." These are thoughts that dominated his mind for the greater part of his life, and constantly found expression in his writings.

Peacefully, then, his boyhood days went by, with lessons learned and childish poems written in the winters, and pleasant journeying and sketching from nature in the summers, — for the boy's talents were developing rapidly.

When he was fourteen, a friend gave him a copy of

Rogers's *Italy*, with illustrations by J. M. W. Turner. Then and there began his lifelong devotion to the great landscape painter, to defend whose methods of work against hostile criticism he wrote the first volumes of his best known book, *Modern Painters.* Volume I. was published in 1842, when Ruskin was twenty-three years old. Between 1833 and 1842, he had done the necessary tutoring, entered, and taken his B. A. degree at Christ Church College, Oxford University. While there he had won a prize by writing a poem, and had found time, also, for other poems and essays, and for lessons in painting from Copley, Fielding, and Harding, in addition to his work in the University.

Modern Painters attracted great attention at once, because of its brilliant style and its original theories of art, which disregarded the conventional rules followed by the old masters and accepted by all critics until that time. The book established Ruskin's reputation as an art critic, and revolutionized public opinion in England upon questions of art.

Immediately after the appearance of Volume I. of *Modern Painters,* Ruskin spent several years abroad, chiefly devoted to the study of art in Italy, in preparation for succeeding volumes of the book then expanding in his mind into the discursive treatise on art which he made it. During the years before 1860 he did an enormous amount of studying, writing (see the list of his works), and lecturing. In 1858 he was appointed professor in the Cambridge School of Art. These were the years when the fame of the young and brilliant author of *Modern*

Painters was at its height. But about 1860 a distinct change began to make itself manifest in his studies, his literary style, and his whole thought of life. The gospel that he had preached until now had been the love of beauty. To him the mechanical civilization of the day, — the admiration for the newly discovered power of machinery, and for its cheapened products, was ugly, false, and degrading. He had tried to get away from it, and to lead those who would follow to the far fields of art, and the nearer fields and hills and skies of nature, in search of the beauty that he had always found and loved there. But slowly he began to see that he was merely "lecturing" to a polite world that applauded his wonderful way of saying things, called it "inspiring," and then forgot what he had said. He saw that in order to make English life beautiful, he must first make it right; a task, indeed, for one man. So he began with the common people, talking and writing to them with great earnestness, about the matters with which they had to deal in their lives. Unjust competition, the misery of the poor, the relations of capital and labor, the true nature and meaning of wealth, and other questions which the political economy of the day (the thought of John Stuart Mill and others) treated in a manner that seemed to him radically wrong, — all these were discussed in *Unto this Last*, *Munera Pulveris*, *Fors Clavigera: Monthly Letters to the Workmen and Laborers of Great Britain*. And in discussing them, his beautiful, picturesque style became strong, terse, and plain, though still capable of flashing out again when he was stirred by the sight of a wrong. "All political economy founded on self-

interest," he declared, was "but the fulfilment of that which once brought schism into the policy of the angels, and ruin into the economy of heaven." "There is nothing going on among us," wrote Carlyle to Emerson, "so notable as those fierce lightning bolts Ruskin is copiously and desperately pouring into the black world of anarchy around him. No other man has in him the divine rage against iniquity, falsity, and baseness, that Ruskin has, and every man ought to have."

But the impassioned language which he sometimes employed, together with the startling theories and projects he advanced, shocked and annoyed those people who had revered him as an interpreter of the beautiful in nature and art, but who could not consider him as a political economist. Workingmen rallied around him, but many of his old friends fell away. Oxford, however, remained true. He was elected Slade Professor of Fine Art in 1869 and kept the professorship until 1879, when he resigned, partly on account of a misunderstanding with the authorities, partly because his health was breaking. In 1883 he was called back to Oxford and held the same professorship two years more. But there were whispers, to which his illness lent a show of truth, that he had lost his mental balance; and from 1860, for twenty years, he fought against the most exasperating of obstacles, — public ridicule. Nevertheless, he made no shadow of turning, and it is undeniable that his ideas have at last influenced present economic thought. His most recent biographer* says: "It was one of the crowning and closing glories of Ruskin's life — at

* M. H. Spielmann: *John Ruskin*, p. 31.

once his delight and consolation — that in more recent times thinkers have come to accept many of his theories once spurned or rejected, and the public to receive them as truths." The Guild of St. George, the embodiment of his socialistic ideas, lives a struggling life in England to-day. But whatever unsuccessful experiments he may have made, the heart and purpose of the man have always been sincere, reverent, and true. The spirit of the times cried to him, and he answered with the best he had to give, — thirty years' devotion of a nature too strenuous and ardent for its physical frame to bear.

His own summation of his life-work is given in *Fors Clavigera*, Volume VII.: —

"*Modern Painters* taught the claim of all lower nature on the hearts of men: of the rock, and wave, and herb, as a part of their necessary spirit life; in all that I now bid you to do, to dress the earth and keep it, I am fulfilling what I then began. *The Stones of Venice* taught the laws of constructive art, and the dependence of all human work or edifice for its beauty on the happy life of the workman. *Unto this Last* taught the laws of that life itself, and its dependence on the Sun of Justice. The inaugural Oxford lectures taught the necessity that the happy life of the workman should be led, and the gracious laws of beauty and labor recognized, by the upper no less than the lower classes of England. *Sesame and Lilies* is a part of this gospel. And lastly, *Fors Clavigera* has declared the relation of these classes to each other, and the only possible conditions of peace and honor, for low and high, rich and poor, together, in the holding of that first estate, under

the only Despot, God, from which whoso falls, angel or man, is kept, not mythically nor disputably, but here in visible horror of chains under darkness to the judgment of the great day; and in keeping which service is perfect freedom, and inheritance of all that a loving Creator can give to his creatures, and an immortal Father to his children.

"This, then, is the message which, knowing no more as I unfolded the scroll of it what next would be written there than the blade of grass knows what the form of its fruit shall be, I have been led on, year by year, to speak, even to this its end."

"John Ruskin's message, repeated in a thousand forms, is one message—never altered and never retreated from—goodness is more than gold, and character outweighs intellect." *

For his teaching, which helps us to know what is beautiful and to do good; for the noble English in which he clothed that teaching; and for the conception which his pure and earnest mind has given us of a social life in which beauty shall be not only a joy forever but "a joy for *all*," it is right that we should reverence and love the memory of John Ruskin.

A. S. C.

* N. D. Hillis: *Great Books as Life Teachers*, p. 42.

A CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF THE MORE IMPORTANT WORKS OF JOHN RUSKIN.

The Poetry of Architecture. Essays published in the Architectural Magazine, 1837–1839. Signed, Kata Phusin ("According to Nature." The phrase describes his point of view).

Modern Painters, Vol. I. 1843.

Modern Painters, Vol. II. 1846.

The Seven Lamps of Architecture. 1849. [Exodus xxv. 37.]

Pre-Raphaelitism. 1851.

The Stones of Venice. 1851–1853.

Notes on the Construction of Sheepfolds. [On the duties of officers of the Church.]

Lectures on Architecture. 1853.

Modern Painters, Vol. III. 1856.

Modern Painters, Vol. IV. 1856.

The Political Economy of Art. 1857. [Afterwards published as A Joy Forever.]

The Elements of Drawing. 1857.

The Two Paths. Lectures on Art and its Application to Decoration and Manufacture.

Poems. Collected 1859.

Modern Painters, Vol. V. 1860.

Unto this Last. Four Essays on the First Principles of Political Economy. 1860. [Matthew xx. 14.]

Munera Pulveris. Six Lectures on the Elements of Political Economy. 1863. [Horace, Odes, I. xxviii. 3.]

Sesame and Lilies. 1865.

Ethics of the Dust. Ten Lectures to Little Housewives on the Elements of Crystallization. 1865. [Ethical and sociological essays.]

Crown of Wild Olive. [That is, the reward of human work.] 1866. Three Lectures on Work, Traffic, and War.

Time and Tide. Twenty-five Letters to a Working-Man on the Laws of Work. 1867.

Queen of the Air. A Study of the Greek Myths of Cloud and Storm. 1869.

Lectures on Art, delivered at the University of Oxford. 1870.

Fors Clavigera. [That is, the nail-forging destiny, or lot in life.] Monthly Letters to the Laborers of Great Britain. 1871–1878.

Aratra Pentelici. [Altars of Pentelicus, a mountain in Greece, famous for its marble.] Lectures on Greek Relief-Sculpture.

The Eagle's Nest. On the Relation of Natural Science to Art. 1872.

Ariadne Florentina. Lectures on Engraving. [Allusion to engraved *labyrinthine* ornament. See Classical Dictionary.] 1872.

Proserpina. Studies of Wayside Flowers. 1876.

Deucalion. Studies of Waves and Stones. 1878.

Mornings in Florence. [Christian Art for English Travellers.] 1877.

St. Mark's Rest. History of Venice. 1877.

The Laws of Fésole. 1878. [Elementary principles of drawing and painting.]

The Art of England. Oxford Lectures. 1884.

The Pleasures of England. Oxford Lectures. 1885.

Our Fathers have told Us. Sketches of the History of Christendom for Boys and Girls. Part I, The Bible of Amiens. 1885.

Præterita. Scenes from My Past Life. 1887.

SUGGESTED READING.

Præterita, Autobiography, 1887.

Life of John Ruskin, W. G. Collingwood. 2 vols. illus., Houghton, Mifflin & Co., 1898.

John Ruskin, His Life and Teaching, R. J. Mather. Ed. 5, Warne, 1897.

The Work of John Ruskin, Charles Waldstein. Methuen, 1894.

Records of Tennyson, Ruskin, and Browning, Mrs. Anne Thackeray Ritchie, illus., Harper, 1899.

Little Journeys to the Homes of Good Men and Great, Elbert Hubbard, Roycroft Press, 1899.

Poets and Problems, G. W. Cooke, Ticknor, 1886.

Lessons from My Masters, Peter Bayne, J. Clarke, 1879.

Great Books as Life Teachers, N. D. Hillis, Revell, 1898.

John Ruskin, M. H. Spielmann, illus., Lippincott, 1900.

The Works of John Ruskin, authorized American edition, edited by Charles Eliot Norton, Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

PREFACE TO THE SMALL EDITION OF 1882.

The present edition of "Sesame and Lilies," issued at the request of an aged friend, is reprinted without change of a word from the first small edition of the book, withdrawing only the irrelevant preface respecting tours in the Alps, which however if the reader care to see, he will find placed with more propriety in the second volume of "Deucalion." The third lecture, added in the first volume of the large edition of my works, and the gossiping introduction prefixed to that edition, are withdrawn also, not as irrelevant, but as following the subject too far, and disturbing the simplicity in which the two original lectures dwell on their several themes, — the majesty of the influence of good books, and of good women, if we know how to read them, and how to honor.

I might just as well have said, the influence of good men, and good women, since the best strength of a man is shown in his intellectual work, as that of a woman in her daily deed and character; and I am somewhat tempted to involve myself in the debate which might be imagined in illustrating these relations of their several powers, because only the other day one of my friends put me in no small pet by saying that he thought my own influence was much more in being amiable and obliging than in writing books. Admit-

ting, for the argument's sake, the amiableness and obligingness, I begged him, with some warmth, to observe that there were myriads of at least equally good-natured people in the world who had merely become its slaves, if not its victims, but that the influence of my books was distinctly on the increase, and I hoped — etc., etc. — it is no matter what more I said, or intimated; but it much matters that the young reader of the following essays should be confirmed in the assurance on which all their pleading depends, that there *is* such a thing as essential good, and as essential evil, in books, in art, and in character; — that this essential goodness and badness are independent of epochs, fashions, opinions, or revolutions; and that the present extremely active and ingenious generation of young people, in thanking Providence for the advantages it has granted them in the possession of steam whistles and bicycles, need not hope materially to add to the laws of beauty in sound or grace in motion, which were acknowledged in the days of Orpheus, and of Camilla.

But I am brought to more serious pause than I had anticipated in putting final accent on the main sentences in this — already, as men now count time, old — book of mine, because since it was written, not only these untried instruments of action, but many equally novel methods of education and systems of morality have come into vogue, not without a certain measure of prospective good in them; — college education for women, — out-of-college education for men: positivism with its religion of humanity, and negativism with its religion of Chaos, — and the like, from the entanglement of which no young people can now escape, if

they would; together with a mass of realistic, or materialistic, literature and art, founded mainly on the theory of nobody's having any will, or needing any master; much of it extremely clever, irresistibly amusing, and enticingly pathetic; but which is all nevertheless the mere whirr and dust-cloud of a dissolutely reforming and vulgarly manufacturing age, which when its dissolutions are appeased, and its manufactures purified, must return in due time to the understanding of the things that have been, and are, and shall be hereafter, though for the present concerned seriously with nothing beyond its dinner and its bed.

I must therefore, for honesty's sake, no less than intelligibility's, warn the reader of "Sesame and Lilies," that the book is wholly of the old school; that it ignores, without contention or regret, the ferment of surrounding elements, and assumes for perennial some old-fashioned conditions and existencies which the philosophy of to-day imagines to be extinct with the Mammoth and the Dodo.

Thus the second lecture, in its very title, "Queens' Gardens," takes for granted the persistency of Queenship, and therefore of Kingship, and therefore of Courtliness or Courtesy, and therefore of Uncourtliness or Rusticity. It assumes, with the ideas of higher and lower rank, those of serene authority and happy submission; of Riches and Poverty without dispute for their rights, and of Virtue and Vice without confusion of their natures.

And farther, it must be premised that the book is chiefly written for young people belonging to the upper, or undistressed middle, classes; who may be supposed to have choice of the objects and command of the industries

of their life. It assumes that many of them will be called to occupy responsible positions in the world, and that they have leisure, in preparation for these, to play tennis, or to read Plato.

Therefore also — that they have Plato to read if they choose, with lawns on which they may run, and woods in which they may muse. It supposes their father's library to be open to them, and to contain all that is necessary for their intellectual progress, without the smallest dependence on monthly parcels from town.

These presupposed conditions are not extravagant in a country which boasts of its wealth, and which, without boasting, still presents in the greater number of its landed households, the most perfect types of grace and peace which can be found in Europe.

I have only to add farther, respecting the book, that it was written while my energies were still unbroken, and my temper unfettered[1]; and that, if read in connection with "Unto this Last," it contains the chief truths I have endeavored through all my past life to display, and which, under the warnings I have received to prepare for its close, I am chiefly thankful to have learnt and taught.

AVALLON, August 24th, 1882.

[1] Unfretted. Wrongly printed from 1871 ed.

SESAME AND LILIES.

LECTURE I. — SESAME.[1]

OF KINGS' TREASURIES.

"You shall each have a cake of sesame, — and ten pound."
LUCIAN: *The Fisherman.*

1. My first duty this evening is to ask your pardon for the ambiguity of title under which the subject of lecture has been announced: for indeed I am not going to talk of kings, known as regnant, nor of treasuries, understood to contain wealth; but in quite another order of royalty, and another material of riches, than those usually acknowledged. I had even intended to ask your attention for a little while on trust, and (as sometimes one contrives, in taking a friend to see a favorite piece of scenery) to hide what I wanted most to show, with such imperfect cunning as I might, until we unexpectedly reached the best point of view by winding paths. But — and as also I have heard it said, by men practised in public address, that hearers are never so much fatigued as by the endeavor to follow a speaker who gives them no clue to his purpose, — I will take the slight mask off at once, and tell you plainly that I want to speak to you about the treasures hidden in books; and about the way we find them, and the way we lose them. A grave subject, you will say; and a wide one! Yes; so wide that I shall make no effort to touch the compass of it. I will try only to

bring before you a few simple thoughts about reading, which press themselves upon me every day more deeply, as I watch the course of the public mind with respect to our daily enlarging means of education; and the answeringly wider spreading on the levels, of the irrigation of literature.

2. It happens that I have practically some connection with schools for different classes of youth; and I receive many letters from parents respecting the education of their children. In the mass of these letters I am always struck by the precedence which the idea of a "position in life" takes above all other thoughts in the parents' — more especially in the mothers' — minds. "The education befitting such and such a *station in life*" — this is the phrase, this the object, always. They never seek, as far as I can make out, an education good in itself; even the conception of abstract rightness in training rarely seems reached by the writers. But, an education "which shall keep a good coat on my son's back; — which shall enable him to ring with confidence the visitor's bell at double-belled doors; which shall result ultimately in the establishment of a double-belled door to his own house; — in a word, which shall lead to advancement in life; — *this* we pray for on bent knees — and this is *all* we pray for." It never seems to occur to the parents that there may be an education which, in itself, *is* advancement in Life; — that any other than that may perhaps be advancement in Death; and that this essential education might be more easily got, or given, than they fancy, if they set about it in the right way; while it is for no price, and by no favor, to be got, if they set about it in the wrong.

3. Indeed, among the ideas most prevalent and effective in the mind of this busiest of countries, I suppose the first — at least that which is confessed with the greatest frankness, and put forward as the fittest stimulus to youthful exertion — is this of "Advancement in life." May I ask you

to consider with me, what this idea practically includes, and what it should include?

Practically, then, at present, "advancement in life" means, becoming conspicuous in life; obtaining a position which shall be acknowledged by others to be respectable or honorable. We do not understand by this advancement, in general, the mere making of money, but the being known to have made it; not the accomplishment of any great aim, but the being seen to have accomplished it. In a word, we mean the gratification of our thirst for applause. That thirst, if the last infirmity of noble minds, is also the first infirmity of weak ones; and, on the whole, the strongest impulsive influence of average humanity: the greatest efforts of the race have always been traceable to the love of praise, as its greatest catastrophes to the love of pleasure.

4. I am not about to attack or defend this impulse. I want you only to feel how it lies at the root of effort; especially of all modern effort. It is the gratification of vanity which is, with us, the stimulus of toil and balm of repose; so closely does it touch the very springs of life that the wounding of our vanity is always spoken of (and truly) as in its measure *mortal;* we call it "mortification," using the same expression which we should apply to a gangrenous and incurable bodily hurt. And although a few of us may be physicians enough to recognize the various effect of this passion upon health and energy, I believe most honest men know, and would at once acknowledge, its leading power with them as a motive. The seaman does not commonly desire to be made captain only because he knows he can manage the ship better than any other sailor on board. He wants to be made captain that he may be *called* captain. The clergyman does not usually want to be made a bishop only because he believes that no other hand can, as firmly as his, direct the diocese through its difficulties. He wants to be made bishop primarily that he may be called "My Lord." And a prince

does not usually desire to enlarge, or a subject to gain, a kingdom, because he believes that no one else can as well serve the State, upon its throne; but, briefly, because he wishes to be addressed as "Your Majesty," by as many lips as may be brought to such utterance.

5. This, then, being the main idea of "advancement in life," the force of it applies, for all of us, according to our station, particularly to that secondary result of such advancement which we call "getting into good society." We want to get into good society not that we may have it, but that we may be seen in it; and our notion of its goodness depends primarily on its conspicuousness.

Will you pardon me if I pause for a moment to put what I fear you may think an impertinent question? I never can go on with an address unless I feel, or know, that my audience are either with me or against me: I do not much care which, in beginning; but I must know where they are; and I would fain find out, at this instant, whether you think I am putting the motives of popular action too low. I am resolved, to-night, to state them low enough to be admitted as probable; for whenever, in my writings on Political Economy, I assume that a little honesty, or generosity, — or what used to be called "virtue" — may be calculated upon as a human motive of action, people always answer me, saying, "You must not calculate on that: that is not in human nature: you must not assume anything to be common to men but acquisitiveness and jealousy; no other feeling ever has influence on them, except accidentally, and in matters out of the way of business." I begin, accordingly, to-night low in the scale of motives; but I must know if you think me right in doing so. Therefore, let me ask those who admit the love of praise to be usually the strongest motive in men's minds in seeking advancement, and the honest desire of doing any kind of duty to be an entirely secondary one, to hold up their hands. (*About a dozen hands held up — the*

audience, partly, not being sure the lecturer is serious, and, partly, shy of expressing opinion.) I am quite serious — I really do want to know what you think; however, I can judge by putting the reverse question. Will those who think that duty is generally the first, and love of praise the second, motive, hold up their hands? (*One hand reported to have been held up, behind the lecturer.*) Very good: I see you are with me, and that you think I have not begun too near the ground. Now, without teasing you by putting farther question, I venture to assume that you will admit duty as at least a secondary or tertiary motive. You think that the desire of doing something useful, or obtaining some real good, is indeed an existent collateral idea, though a secondary one, in most men's desire of advancement. You will grant that moderately honest men desire place and office, at least in some measure, for the sake of beneficent power; and would wish to associate rather with sensible and well-informed persons than with fools and ignorant persons, whether they are seen in the company of the sensible ones or not. And finally, without being troubled by repetition of any common truisms about the preciousness of friends, and the influence of companions, you will admit, doubtless, that according to the sincerity of our desire that our friends may be true, and our companions wise, — and in proportion to the earnestness and discretion with which we choose both, will be the general chances of our happiness and usefulness.

6. But granting that we had both the will and the sense to choose our friends well, how few of us have the power! or, at least, how limited, for most, is the sphere of choice! Nearly all our associations are determined by chance, or necessity; and restricted within a narrow circle. We cannot know whom we would; and those whom we know, we cannot have at our side when we most need them. All the higher circles of human intelligence are, to those beneath,

only momentarily and partially open. We may, by good fortune, obtain a glimpse of a great poet, and hear the sound of his voice; or put a question to a man of science, and be answered good-humoredly. We may intrude ten minutes' talk on a cabinet minister, answered probably with words worse than silence, being deceptive; or snatch, once or twice in our lives, the privilege of throwing a bouquet in the path of a Princess, or arresting the kind glance of a Queen. And yet these momentary chances we covet; and spend our years, and passions and powers in pursuit of little more than these; while, meantime, there is a society continually open to us, of people who will talk to us as long as we like, whatever our rank or occupation; — talk to us in the best words they can choose, and of the things nearest their hearts. And this society, because it is so numerous and so gentle, and can be kept waiting round us all day long, — kings and statesmen lingering patiently, not to grant audience, but to gain it! — in those plainly furnished and narrow ante-rooms, our bookcase shelves, — we make no account of that company, — perhaps never listen to a word they would say, all day long!

7. You may tell me, perhaps, or think within yourselves, that the apathy with which we regard this company of the noble, who are praying us to listen to them; and the passion with which we pursue the company, probably of the ignoble, who despise us, or who have nothing to teach us, are grounded in this, — that we can see the faces of the living men, and it is themselves, and not their sayings, with which we desire to become familiar. But it is not so. Suppose you never were to see their faces: — suppose you could be put behind a screen in the statesman's cabinet, or the prince's chamber, would you not be glad to listen to their words, though you were forbidden to advance beyond the screen? And when the screen is only a little less, folded in two instead of four, and you can be hidden behind the cover of

the two boards that bind a book, and listen all day long, not to the casual talk, but to the studied, determined, chosen addresses of the wisest of men; — this station of audience, and honorable privy council, you despise!

8. But perhaps you will say that it is because the living people talk of things that are passing, and are of immediate interest to you, that you desire to hear them. Nay; that cannot be so, for the living people will themselves tell you about passing matters, much better in their writings than in their careless talk. But I admit that this motive does influence you, so far as you prefer those rapid and ephemeral writings to slow and enduring writings — books, properly so called. For all books are divisible into two classes: the books of the hour, and the books of all time. Mark this distinction — it is not one of quality only. It is not merely the bad book that does not last, and the good one that does. It is a distinction of species. There are good books for the hour, and good ones for all time; bad books for the hour, and bad ones for all time. I must define the two kinds before I go farther.

9. The good book of the hour, then, — I do not speak of the bad ones, — is simply the useful or pleasant talk of some person whom you cannot otherwise converse with, printed for you. Very useful often, telling you what you need to know; very pleasant often, as a sensible friend's present talk would be. These bright accounts of travels; good-humored and witty discussions of question; lively or pathetic story-telling in the form of novel; firm fact-telling, by the real agents concerned in the events of passing history; — all these books of the hour, multiplying among us as education becomes more general, are a peculiar possession of the present age: we ought to be entirely thankful for them, and entirely ashamed of ourselves if we make no good use of them. But we make the worst possible use if we allow them to usurp the place of true books: for, strictly

speaking, they are not books at all, but merely letters or newspapers in good print. Our friend's letter may be delightful, or necessary, to-day: whether worth keeping or not, is to be considered. The newspaper may be entirely proper at breakfast-time, but assuredly it is not reading for all day. So, though bound up in a volume, the long letter which gives you so pleasant an account of the inns, and roads, and weather last year at such a place, or which tells you that amusing story, or gives you the real circumstances of such and such events, however valuable for occasional reference, may not be, in the real sense of the word, a "book" at all, nor in the real sense, to be "read." A book is essentially not a talked thing, but a written thing; and written, not with a view of mere communication, but of permanence. The book of talk is printed only because its author cannot speak to thousands of people at once; if he could, he would — the volume is mere *multiplication* of his voice. You cannot talk to your friend in India; if you could, you would; you write instead: that is mere *conveyance* of voice. But a book is written, not to multiply the voice merely, not to carry it merely, but to perpetuate it. The author has something to say which he perceives to be true and useful, or helpfully beautiful. So far as he knows, no one has yet said it; so far as he knows, no one else can say it. He is bound to say it, clearly and melodiously if he may; clearly, at all events. In the sum of his life he finds this to be the thing, or group of things, manifest to him; — this, the piece of true knowledge, or sight, which his share of sunshine and earth has permitted him to seize. He would fain set it down forever; engrave it on a rock, if he could; saying, "This is the best of me; for the rest, I ate, and drank, and slept, loved, and hated, like another; my life was as the vapor, and is not; but this I saw and knew: this, if anything of mine, is worth your memory." That is his "writing"; it is, in his small human way, and with

whatever degree of true inspiration is in him, his inscription, or scripture. That is a "Book."

10. Perhaps you think no books were ever so written? But, again, I ask you, do you at all believe in honesty, or at all in kindness? or do you think there is never any honesty or benevolence in wise people? None of us, I hope, are so unhappy as to think that. Well, whatever bit of a wise man's work is honestly and benevolently done, that bit is his book, or his piece of art.* It is mixed always with evil fragments — ill-done, redundant, affected work. But if you read rightly, you will easily discover the true bits, and those *are* the book.

11. Now, books of this kind have been written in all ages by their greatest men, — by great readers, great statesmen, and great thinkers. These are all at your choice; and Life is short. You have heard as much before; — yet, have you measured and mapped out this short life and its possibilities? Do you know, if you read this, that you cannot read that — that what you lose to-day you cannot gain to-morrow? Will you go and gossip with your housemaid, or your stable-boy, when you may talk with queens and kings; or flatter yourselves that it is with any worthy consciousness of your own claims to respect, that you jostle with the hungry and common crowd for *entrée* here, and audience there, when all the while this eternal court is open to you, with its society, wide as the world, multitudinous as its days, the chosen, and the mighty, of every place and time? Into that you may enter always; in that you may take fellowship and rank according to your wish; from that, once entered into it, you can never be an outcast but by your own fault; by your aristocracy of companionship there, your own inherent aristocracy will be assuredly tested, and the motives with which you strive to take high place in the society of the

* Note this sentence carefully, and compare the "Queen of the Air," § 106.

living, measured, as to all the truth and sincerity that are in them, by the place you desire to take in this company of the Dead.

12. "The place you desire," and the place *you fit yourself for*, I must also say; because, observe, this court of the past differs from all living aristocracy in this:—it is open to labor and to merit, but to nothing else. No wealth will bribe, no name overawe, no artifice deceive, the guardian of those Elysian gates. In the deep sense, no vile or vulgar person ever enters there. At the portières of that silent Faubourg St. Germain, there is but brief question: "Do you deserve to enter? Pass. Do you ask to be the companion of nobles? Make yourself noble, and you shall be. Do you long for the conversation of the wise? Learn to understand it, and you shall hear it. But on other terms? —no. If you will not rise to us, we cannot stoop to you. The living lord may assume courtesy, the living philosopher explain his thought to you with considerate pain; but here we neither feign nor interpret; you must rise to the level of our thoughts if you would be gladdened by them, and share our feelings if you would recognize our presence."

13. This, then, is what you have to do, and I admit that it is much. You must, in a word, love these people, if you are to be among them. No ambition is of any use. They scorn your ambition. You must love them, and show your love in these two following ways.

I.—First, by a true desire to be taught by them, and to enter into their thoughts. To enter into theirs, observe; not to find your own expressed by them. If the person who wrote the book is not wiser than you, you need not read it; if he be, he will think differently from you in many respects.

Very ready we are to say of a book, "How good this is—that's exactly what I think!" But the right feeling is, "How strange that is! I never thought of that before, and

yet I see it is true; or if I do not now, I hope I shall, some day." But whether thus submissively or not, at least be sure that you go to the author to get at *his* meaning, not to find yours. Judge it afterwards if you think yourself qualified to do so; but ascertain it first. And be sure also, if the author is worth anything, that you will not get at his meaning all at once; — nay, that at his whole meaning you will not for a long time arrive in any wise. Not that he does not say what he means, and in strong words too; but he cannot say it all; and what is more strange, *will* not, but in a hidden way and in parable, in order that he may be sure you want it. I cannot quite see the reason of this, nor analyze that cruel reticence in the breasts of wise men which makes them always hide their deeper thought. They do not give it you by way of help, but of reward; and will make themselves sure that you deserve it before they allow you to reach it. But it is the same with the physical type of wisdom, gold. There seems, to you and me, no reason why the electric forces of the earth should not carry whatever there is of gold within it at once to the mountain tops, so that kings and people might know that all the gold they could get was there; and without any trouble of digging, or anxiety, or chance, or waste of time, cut it away, and coin as much as they needed. But Nature does not manage it so. She puts it in little fissures in the earth, nobody knows where; you may dig long and find none; you must dig painfully to find any.

14. And it is just the same with men's best wisdom. When you come to a good book, you must ask yourself, "Am I inclined to work as an Australian miner would? Are my pickaxes and shovels in good order, and am I in good trim myself, my sleeves well up to the elbow, and my breath good, and my temper?" And, keeping the figure a little longer, even at cost of tiresomeness, for it is a thoroughly useful one, the metal you are in search of

being the author's mind or meaning, his words are as the rock which you have to crush and smelt in order to get at it. And your pickaxes are your own care, wit, and learning; your smelting furnace is your own thoughtful soul. Do not hope to get at any good author's meaning without those tools and that fire; often you will need sharpest, finest chiselling, and patientest fusing, before you can gather one grain of the metal.

15. And, therefore, first of all, I tell you earnestly and authoritatively (I *know* I am right in this), you must get into the habit of looking intensely at words, and assuring yourself of their meaning, syllable by syllable — nay, letter by letter. For though it is only by reason of the opposition of letters in the function of signs, to sounds in the function of signs, that the study of books is called "literature," and that a man versed in it is called, by the consent of nations, a man of letters instead of a man of books, or of words, you may yet connect with that accidental nomenclature this real fact, — that you might read all the books in the British Museum (if you could live long enough), and remain an utterly "illiterate," uneducated person; but that if you read ten pages of a good book, letter by letter, — that is to say, with real accuracy, — you are forevermore in some measure an educated person. The entire difference between education and non-education (as regards the merely intellectual part of it), consists in this accuracy. A well-educated gentleman may not know many languages, — may not be able to speak any but his own, — may have read very few books. But whatever language he knows, he knows precisely; whatever word he pronounces, he pronounces rightly; above all, he is learned in the *peerage* of words; knows the words of true descent and ancient blood, at a glance, from words of modern canaille; remembers all their ancestry, their intermarriages, distant relationships, and the extent to which they were admitted, and offices

they held, among the national noblesse of words at any time, and in any country. But an uneducated person may know, by memory, many languages, and talk them all, and yet truly know not a word of any, — not a word even of his own. An ordinarily clever and sensible seaman will be able to make his way ashore at most ports; yet he has only to speak a sentence of any language to be known for an illiterate person; so also the accent, or turn of expression of a single sentence, will at once mark a scholar. And this is so strongly felt, so conclusively admitted, by educated persons, that a false accent or a mistaken syllable is enough, in the parliament of any civilized nation, to assign to a man a certain degree of inferior standing forever.

16. And this is right; but it is a pity that the accuracy insisted on is not greater, and required to a serious purpose. It is right that a false Latin quantity should excite a smile in the House of Commons; but it is wrong that a false English *meaning* should *not* excite a frown there. Let the accent of words be watched; and closely: let their meaning be watched more closely still, and fewer will do the work. A few words, well chosen and distinguished, will do work that a thousand cannot, when every one is acting, equivocally, in the function of another. Yes; and words, if they are not watched, will do deadly work sometimes. There are masked words droning and skulking about us in Europe just now, — (there never were so many, owing to the spread of a shallow, blotching, blundering, infectious "information," or rather deformation, everywhere, and to the teaching of catechisms and phrases at schools instead of human meanings) — there are masked words abroad, I say, which nobody understands, but which everybody uses, and most people will also fight for, live for, or even die for, fancying they mean this or that, or the other, of things dear to them: for such words wear chamæleon cloaks — "groundlion" cloaks, of the color of the ground of any man's fancy: on

that ground they lie in wait, and rend him with a spring from it. There never were creatures of prey so mischievous, never diplomatists so cunning, never poisoners so deadly, as these masked words; they are the unjust stewards of all men's ideas: whatever fancy or favorite instinct a man most cherishes, he gives to his favorite masked word to take care of for him; the word at last comes to have an infinite power over him, — you cannot get at him but by its ministry.

17. And in languages so mongrel in breed as the English, there is a fatal power of equivocation put into men's hands, almost whether they will or no, in being able to use Greek or Latin words for an idea when they want it to be awful; and Saxon or otherwise common words when they want it to be vulgar. What a singular and salutary effect, for instance, would be produced on the minds of people who are in the habit of taking the Form of the "Word" they live by, for the Power of which that Word tells them, if we always either retained, or refused, the Greek form "biblos," or "biblion," as the right expression for "book" — instead of employing it only in the one instance in which we wish to give dignity to the idea, and translating it into English everywhere else. How wholesome it would be for many simple persons if, in such places (for instance) as Acts xix. 19, we retained the Greek expression, instead of translating it, and they had to read — "Many of them also which used curious arts, brought their Bibles together, and burnt them before all men; and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver"! Or if, on the other hand, we translated where we retain it, and always spoke of "the Holy Book," instead of "Holy Bible," it might come into more heads than it does at present, that the Word of God, by which the heavens were of old, and by which they are now kept in store,* cannot be made a

*2 Peter iii. 5–7

present of to anybody in morocco binding; nor sown on any wayside by help either of steam plough or steam press; but is nevertheless being offered to us daily, and by us with contumely refused: and sown in us daily, and by us, as instantly as may be, choked.

18. So, again, consider what effect has been produced on the English vulgar mind by the use of the sonorous Latin form "damno," in translating the Greek κατακρίνω, when people charitably wish to make it forcible; and the substitution of the temperate "condemn" for it, when they choose to keep it gentle; and what notable sermons have been preached by illiterate clergymen on — "He that believeth not shall be damned;" though they would shrink with horror from translating Heb. xi. 7, "The saving of his house, by which he damned the world," or John viii. 10–11, "Woman, hath no man damned thee? She saith, No man, Lord. Jesus answered her, Neither do I damn thee: go, and sin no more." And divisions in the mind of Europe, which have cost seas of blood, and in the defence of which the noblest souls of men have been cast away in frantic desolation, countless as forest-leaves — though, in the heart of them, founded on deeper causes — have nevertheless been rendered practically possible, mainly, by the European adoption of the Greek word for a public meeting, "ecclesia," to give peculiar respectability to such meetings, when held for religious purposes; and other collateral equivocations, such as the vulgar English one of using the word "priest" as a contraction for "presbyter."

19. Now, in order to deal with words rightly, this is the habit you must form. Nearly every word in your language has been first a word of some other language — of Saxon, German, French, Latin, or Greek; (not to speak of eastern and primitive dialects). And many words have been all these; — that is to say, have been Greek first, Latin next, French or German next, and English last: undergoing a

certain change of sense and use on the lips of each nation; but retaining a deep vital meaning, which all good scholars feel in employing them, even at this day. If you do not know the Greek alphabet, learn it; young or old — girl or boy — whoever you may be, if you think of reading seriously (which, of course, implies that you have some leisure at command), learn your Greek alphabet; then get good dictionaries of all these languages, and whenever you are in doubt about a word, hunt it down patiently. Read Max Müller's lectures thoroughly, to begin with; and, after that, never let a word escape you that looks suspicious. It is severe work; but you will find it, even at first, interesting, and at last, endlessly amusing. And the general gain to your character, in power and precision, will be quite incalculable.

Mind, this does not imply knowing, or trying to know, Greek, or Latin, or French. It takes a whole life to learn any language perfectly. But you can easily ascertain the meanings through which the English word has passed; and those which in a good writer's work it must still bear.

20. And now, merely for example's sake, I will, with your permission, read a few lines of a true book with you, carefully; and see what will come out of them. I will take a book perfectly known to you all. No English words are more familiar to us, yet few perhaps have been read with less sincerity. I will take these few following lines of Lycidas: —

"Last came, and last did go,
The pilot of the Galilean lake.
Two massy keys he bore of metals twain,
(The golden opes, the iron shuts amain,)
He shook his mitred locks, and stern bespake.
'How well could I have spared for thee, young swain,
Enow of such as for their bellies' sake
Creep, and intrude, and climb into the fold!

Of other care they little reckoning make,
Than how to scramble at the shearers' feast,
And shove away the worthy bidden guest;
Blind mouths! that scarce themselves know how to hold
A sheep-hook, or have learned aught else, the least
That to the faithful herdman's art belongs!
What recks it them? What need they? They are sped;
And when they list, their lean and flashy songs
Grate on their scrannel pipes of wretched straw.
The hungry sheep look up, and are not fed,
But swoln with wind, and the rank mist they draw,
Rot inwardly, and foul contagion spread;
Besides what the grim wolf with privy paw
Daily devours apace, and nothing said.'"

Let us think over this passage, and examine its words.

First, is it not singular to find Milton assigning to St. Peter, not only his full episcopal function, but the very types of it which Protestants usually refuse most passionately? His "mitred" locks! Milton was no Bishop-lover; how comes St. Peter to be "mitred"? "Two massy keys he bore." Is this, then, the power of the keys claimed by the Bishops of Rome, and is it acknowledged here by Milton only in a poetical license, for the sake of its picturesqueness, that he may get the gleam of the golden keys to help his effect?

Do not think it. Great men do not play stage tricks with the doctrines of life and death: only little men do that. Milton means what he says; and means it with his might too — is going to put the whole strength of his spirit presently into the saying of it. For though not a lover of false bishops, he *was* a lover of true ones; and the Lake-pilot is here, in his thoughts, the type and head of true episcopal power. For Milton reads that text, "I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of Heaven" quite honestly. Puritan though he be, he would not blot it out of the book because there

have been bad bishops; nay, in order to understand *him*, we must understand that verse first; it will not do to eye it askance, or whisper it under our breath, as if it were a weapon of an adverse sect. It is a solemn, universal assertion, deeply to be kept in mind by all sects. But perhaps we shall be better able to reason on it if we go on a little farther, and come back to it. For clearly this marked insistence on the power of the true episcopate is to make us feel more weightily what is to be charged against the false claimants of episcopate; or generally, against false claimants of power and rank in the body of the clergy: they who, "for their bellies' sake, creep, and intrude, and climb into the fold."

21. Never think Milton uses those three words to fill up his verse, as a loose writer would. He needs all the three; — specially those three, and no more than those — "creep," and "intrude," and "climb"; no other words would or could serve the turn, and no more could be added. For they exhaustively comprehend the three classes, correspondent to the three characters, of men who dishonestly seek ecclesiastical power. First, those who "creep" into the fold; who do not care for office, nor name, but for secret influence, and do all things occultly and cunningly, consenting to any servility of office or conduct, so only that they may intimately discern, and unawares direct, the minds of men. Then those who "intrude" (thrust, that is) themselves into the fold, who by natural insolence of heart, and stout eloquence of tongue, and fearlessly perseverant self-assertion, obtain hearing and authority with the common crowd. Lastly, those who "climb," who, by labor and learning, both stout and sound, but selfishly exerted in the cause of their own ambition, gain high dignities and authorities, and become "lords over the heritage," though not "ensamples to the flock."

22. Now go on: —

"Of other care they little reckoning make,
Than how to scramble at the shearers' feast.
Blind mouths —"

I pause again, for this is a strange expression: a broken metaphor, one might think, careless and unscholarly.

Not so; its very audacity and pithiness are intended to make us look close at the phrase and remember it. Those two monosyllables express the precisely accurate contraries of right character, in the two great offices of the Church — those of bishop and pastor.

A "Bishop" means "a person who sees."

A "Pastor" means "a person who feeds."

The most unbishoply character a man can have is therefore to be Blind.

The most unpastoral is, instead of feeding, to want to be fed, — to be a Mouth.

Take the two reverses together, and you have "blind mouths." We may advisably follow out this idea a little. Nearly all the evils in the Church have arisen from bishops desiring *power* more than *light*. They want authority, not outlook. Whereas their real office is not to rule; though it may be vigorously to exhort and rebuke; it is the king's office to rule; the bishop's office is to *oversee* the flock; to number it, sheep by sheep; to be ready always to give full account of it. Now, it is clear he cannot give account of the souls, if he has not so much as numbered the bodies of his flock. The first thing, therefore, that a bishop has to do is at least to put himself in a position in which, at any moment, he can obtain the history, from childhood, of every living soul in his diocese, and of its present state. Down in that back street, Bill and Nancy, knocking each other's teeth out! — Does the bishop know all about it? Has he his eye upon them? Has he *had* his eye upon them? Can he circumstantially explain to us how Bill got

into the habit of beating Nancy about the head? If he cannot he is no bishop, though he had a mitre as high as Salisbury steeple; he is no bishop, — he has sought to be at the helm instead of the masthead; he has no sight of things. "Nay," you say, "it is not his duty to look after Bill in the back street." What! the fat sheep that have full fleeces — you think it is only those he should look after, while (go back to your Milton) "the hungry sheep look up, and are not fed, besides what the grim wolf, with privy paw" (bishops knowing nothing about it) "daily devours apace, and nothing said"?

"But that's not our idea of a bishop."* Perhaps not; but it was St. Paul's; and it was Milton's. They may be right, or we may be; but we must not think we are reading either one or the other by putting our meaning into their words.

23. I go on.

"But, swoln with wind, and the rank mist they draw."

This is to meet the vulgar answer that "if the poor are not looked after in their bodies, they are in their souls; they have spiritual food."

And Milton says, "They have no such thing as spiritual food; they are only swollen with wind." At first you may think that is a coarse type, and an obscure one. But again, it is a quite literally accurate one. Take up your Latin and Greek dictionaries, and find out the meaning of "Spirit." It is only a contraction of the Latin word "breath," and an indistinct translation of the Greek word for "wind." The same word is used in writing, "The wind bloweth where it listeth;" and in writing, "So is every one that is born of the Spirit;" born of the *breath*, that is; for it means the breath of God, in soul and body. We have the true sense

* Compare the 13th Letter in "Time and Tide."

of it in our words "inspiration" and "expire." Now, there are two kinds of breath with which the flock may be filled; God's breath and man's. The breath of God is health, and life, and peace to them, as the air of heaven is to the flocks on the hills; but man's breath — the word which *he* calls spiritual — is disease and contagion to them, as the fog of the fen. They rot inwardly with it; they are puffed up by it, as a dead body by the vapors of its own decomposition. This is literally true of all false religious teaching; the first, and last, and fatalest sign of it is that "puffing up." Your converted children, who teach their parents; your converted convicts, who teach honest men; your converted dunces, who, having lived in cretinous stupefaction half their lives, suddenly awaking to the fact of there being a God, fancy themselves therefore His peculiar people and messengers; your sectarians of every species, small and great, Catholic or Protestant, of high church or low, in so far as they think themselves exclusively in the right and others wrong; and preëminently, in every sect, those who hold that men can be saved by thinking rightly instead of doing rightly, by work instead of act, and wish instead of work; — these are the true fog children — clouds, these, without water; bodies, these, of putrescent vapor and skin, without blood or flesh: blown bag-pipes for the fiends to pipe with — corrupt, and corrupting, — "Swoln with wind, and the rank mist they draw."

24. Lastly, let us return to the lines respecting the power of the keys, for now we can understand them. Note the difference between Milton and Dante in their interpretation of this power: for once, the latter is weaker in thought; he supposes *both* the keys to be of the gate of heaven; one is of gold, the other of silver: they are given by St. Peter to the sentinel angel; and it is not easy to determine the meaning either of the substances of the three steps of the gate, or of the two keys. But Milton

makes one, of gold, the key of heaven; the other, of iron, the key of the prison in which the wicked teachers are to be bound who "have taken away the key of knowledge, yet entered not in themselves."

We have seen that the duties of bishop and pastor are to see, and feed; and of all who do so it is said, "He that watereth, shall be watered also himself." But the reverse is truth also. He that watereth not, shall be *withered* himself; and he that seeth not, shall himself be shut out of sight — shut into the perpetual prison-house. And that prison opens here, as well as hereafter; he who is to be bound in heaven must first be bound on earth. That command to the strong angels, of which the rock-apostle is the image, "Take him, and bind him hand and foot, and cast him out," issues, in its measure, against the teacher, for every help withheld, and for every truth refused, and for every falsehood enforced; so that he is more strictly fettered the more he fetters, and farther outcast, as he more and more misleads, till at last the bars of the iron cage close upon him, and as "the golden opes, the iron shuts amain."

25. We have got something out of the lines, I think, and much more is yet to be found in them; but we have done enough by way of example of the kind of word-by-word examination of your author which is rightly called "reading"; watching every accent and expression, and putting ourselves always in the author's place, annihilating our own personality, and seeking to enter into his, so as to be able assuredly to say, "Thus Milton thought," not "Thus *I* thought, in mis-reading Milton." And by this process you will gradually come to attach less weight to your own "Thus I thought" at other times. You will begin to perceive that what *you* thought was a matter of no serious importance; — that your thoughts on any subject are not perhaps the clearest and wisest that could be arrived at thereupon: — in fact, that unless you are a very singular

person, you cannot be said to have any "thoughts" at all; that you have no materials for them, in any serious matters*; — no right to "think," but only to try to learn more of the facts. Nay, most probably all your life (unless, as I said, you are a singular person) you will have no legitimate right to an "opinion" on any business, except that instantly under your hand. What must of necessity be done, you can always find out, beyond question, how to do. Have you a house to keep in order, a commodity to sell, a field to plough, a ditch to cleanse? There need be no two opinions about the proceedings; it is at your peril if you have not much more than an "opinion" on the way to manage such matters. And also, outside of your own business, there are one or two subjects on which you are bound to have but one opinion. That roguery and lying are objectionable, and are instantly to be flogged out of the way whenever discovered; — that covetousness and love of quarrelling are dangerous dispositions even in children, and deadly dispositions in men and nations; — that in the end, the God of heaven and earth loves active, modest, and kind people, and hates idle, proud, greedy, and cruel ones; — on these general facts you are bound to have but one, and that a very strong, opinion. For the rest, respecting religions, governments, sciences, arts, you will find that, on the whole, you can know NOTHING, — judge nothing; that the best you can do, even though you may be a well-educated person, is to be silent, and strive to be wiser every day, and to understand a little more of the thoughts of others, which so soon as you try to do honestly, you will discover that the thoughts even of the wisest are very little more than pertinent questions. To put the difficulty into a clear shape, and exhibit to you the grounds for *in*decision, that is all

* Modern "education" for the most part signifies giving people the faculty of thinking wrong on every conceivable subject of importance to them.

they can generally do for you! — and well for them and for us, if indeed they are able "to mix the music with our thoughts, and sadden us with heavenly doubts." This writer, from whom I have been reading to you, is not among the first or wisest: he sees shrewdly as far as he sees, and therefore it is easy to find out his full meaning; but with the greater men, you cannot fathom their meaning; they do not even wholly measure it themselves, — it is so wide. Suppose I had asked you, for instance, to seek for Shakespeare's opinion, instead of Milton's, on this matter of Church authority? — or of Dante's? Have any of you, at this instant, the least idea what either thought about it? Have you ever balanced the scene with the bishops in Richard III. against the character of Cranmer? the description of St. Francis and St. Dominic against that of him who made Virgil wonder to gaze upon him, — "disteso, tanto vilmente, nell' eterno esilio"; or of him whom Dante stood beside, "come 'l frate che confessa lo perfido assassin"?* Shakespeare and Alighieri knew men better than most of us, I presume! They were both in the midst of the main struggle between the temporal and spiritual powers. They had an opinion, we may guess. But where is it? Bring it into court! Put Shakespeare's or Dante's creed into articles, and send it up for trial by the Ecclesiastical Courts!

26. You will not be able, I tell you again, for many and many a day, to come at the real purposes and teaching of these great men; but a very little honest study of them will enable you to perceive that what you took for your own "judgment" was mere chance prejudice, and drifted, helpless, entangled weed of castaway thought; nay, you will see that most men's minds are indeed little better than rough heath wilderness, neglected and stubborn, partly barren, partly overgrown with pestilent brakes, and venomous,

* Inf. xxiii. 125, 126; xix. 49, 50.

wind-sown herbage of evil surmise; that the first thing you have to do for them, and yourself, is eagerly and scornfully to set fire to *this;* burn all the jungle into wholesome ash-heaps, and then plough and sow. All the true literary work before you, for life, must begin with obedience to that order, "Break up your fallow ground, and *sow not among thorns.*"

27. II.* Having then faithfully listened to the great teachers, that you may enter into their Thoughts, you have yet this higher advance to make; — you have to enter into their Hearts. As you go to them first for clear sight, so you must stay with them, that you may share at last their just and mighty Passion. Passion, or "sensation." I am not afraid of the word; still less of the thing. You have heard many outcries against sensation lately; but, I can tell you, it is not less sensation we want, but more. The ennobling difference between one man and another, — between one animal and another, — is precisely in this, that one feels more than another. If we were sponges, perhaps sensation might not be easily got for us; if we were earth-worms, liable at every instant to be cut in two by the spade, perhaps too much sensation might not be good for us. But being human creatures, it *is* good for us; nay, we are only human in so far as we are sensitive, and our honor is precisely in proportion to our passion.

28. You know I said of that great and pure society of the Dead, that it would allow "no vain or vulgar person to enter there." What do you think I meant by a "vulgar" person? What do you yourselves mean by "vulgarity"? You will find it a fruitful subject of thought; but, briefly, the essence of all vulgarity lies in want of sensation. Simple and innocent vulgarity is merely an untrained and undeveloped bluntness of body and mind; but in true inbred vulgarity, there is a dreadful callousness, which, in

*Compare § 13 pp. 30 and 31.

extremity, becomes capable of every sort of bestial habit and crime, without fear, without pleasure, without horror, and without pity. It is in the blunt hand and the dead heart, in the diseased habit, in the hardened conscience, that men become vulgar; they are forever vulgar, precisely in proportion as they are incapable of sympathy — of quick understanding, — of all that, in deep insistence on the common, but most accurate term, may be called the "tact" or "touch-faculty," of body and soul: that tact which the Mimosa has in trees, which the pure woman has above all creatures; — fineness and fulness of sensation, beyond reason; — the guide and sanctifier of reason itself. Reason can but determine what is true: — it is the God-given passion of humanity which alone can recognize what God has made good.

29. We come then to that great concourse of the Dead, not merely to know from them what is true, but chiefly to feel with them what is just. Now, to feel with them, we must be like them; and none of us can become that without pains. As the true knowledge is disciplined and tested knowledge, — not the first thought that comes, — so the true passion is disciplined and tested passion, — not the first passion that comes. The first that come are the vain, the false, the treacherous; if you yield to them, they will lead you wildly and far, in vain pursuit, in hollow enthusiasm, till you have no true purpose and no true passion left. Not that any feeling possible to humanity is in itself wrong, but only wrong when undisciplined. Its nobility is in its force and justice; it is wrong when it is weak, and felt for paltry cause. There is a mean wonder, as of a child who sees a juggler tossing golden balls, and this is base, if you will. But do you think that the wonder is ignoble, or the sensation less, with which every human soul is called to watch the golden balls of heaven tossed through the night by the Hand that made

them? There is a mean curiosity, as of a child opening a forbidden door, or a servant prying into her master's business; — and a noble curiosity, questioning, in the front of danger, the source of the great river beyond the sand, — the place of the great continent beyond the sea; — a nobler curiosity still, which questions of the source of the River of Life, and of the space of the Continent of Heaven — things which "the angels desire to look into." So the anxiety is ignoble, with which you linger over the course and catastrophe of an idle tale; but do you think the anxiety is less, or greater, with which you watch, or *ought* to watch, the dealings of fate and destiny with the life of an agonized nation? Alas! it is the narrowness, selfishness, minuteness, of your sensation that you have to deplore in England at this day; — sensation which spends itself in bouquets and speeches; in revellings and junketings; in sham fights and gay puppet shows, while you can look on and see noble nations murdered, man by man, without an effort or a tear.

30. I said "minuteness" and "selfishness" of sensation, but it would have been enough to have said "injustice" or "unrighteousness" of sensation. For as in nothing is a gentleman better to be discerned from a vulgar person, so in nothing is a gentle nation (such nations have been) better to be discerned from a mob, than in this, — that their feelings are constant and just, results of due contemplation, and of equal thought. You can talk a mob into anything; its feelings may be — usually are — on the whole, generous and right; but it has no foundation for them, no hold of them; you may tease or tickle it into any, at your pleasure; it thinks by infection, for the most part, catching an opinion like a cold, and there is nothing so little that it will not roar itself wild about, when the fit is on; — nothing so great but it will forget in an hour, when the fit is past. But a gentleman's, or a gentle nation's,

passions are just, measured, and continuous. A great nation, for instance, does not spend its entire national wits for a couple of months in weighing evidence of a single ruffian's having done a single murder; and for a couple of years see its own children murder each other by their thousands or tens of thousands a day, considering only what the effect is likely to be on the price of cotton, and caring nowise to determine which side of battle is in the wrong. Neither does a great nation send its poor little boys to jail for stealing six walnuts; and allow its bankrupts to steal their hundreds of thousands with a bow, and its bankers, rich with poor men's savings, to close their doors "under circumstances over which they have no control," with a "by your leave"; and large landed estates to be bought by men who have made their money by going with armed steamers up and down the China Seas, selling opium at the cannon's mouth, and altering, for the benefit of the foreign nation, the common highwayman's demand of "your money *or* your life," into that of "your money *and* your life." Neither does a great nation allow the lives of its innocent poor to be parched out of them by fog fever, and rotted out of them by dung-hill plague, for the sake of sixpence a life extra per week to its landlords*; and then debate, with drivelling tears, and diabolical sympathies, whether it ought not piously to save, and nursingly cherish, the lives of its murderers. Also, a great nation having made up its mind that hanging is quite the wholesomest process for its homicides in general, can yet with mercy distinguish between the degrees of guilt in homicides; and does not yelp like a pack of frost-pinched wolf-cubs on the blood-track of an unhappy crazed boy, or gray-haired clodpate Othello, "perplexed i' the ex-

* See note at end of lecture. I have put it in large type, because the course of matters since it was written has made it perhaps better worth attention.

treme," at the very moment that it is sending a Minister of the Crown to make polite speeches to a man who is bayoneting young girls in their fathers' sight, and killing noble youths in cool blood, faster than a country butcher kills lambs in spring. And, lastly, a great nation does not mock Heaven and its Powers, by pretending belief in a revelation which asserts the love of money to be the root of *all* evil, and declaring, at the same time, that it is actuated, and intends to be actuated, in all chief national deeds and measures, by no other love.

31. My friends, I do not know why any of us should talk about reading. We want some sharper discipline than that of reading; but, at all events, be assured, we cannot read. No reading is possible for a people with its mind in this state. No sentence of any great writer is intelligible to them. It is simply and sternly impossible for the English public, at this moment, to understand any thoughtful writing, — so incapable of thought has it become in its insanity of avarice. Happily, our disease is, as yet, little worse than this incapacity of thought; it is not corruption of the inner nature; we ring true still, when anything strikes home to us; and though the idea that everything should "pay" has infected our every purpose so deeply, that even when we would play the good Samaritan, we never take out our twopence and give them to the host, without saying, "When I come again, thou shalt give me fourpence," there is a capacity of noble passion left in our hearts' core. We show it in our work — in our war, — even in those unjust domestic affections which make us furious at a small private wrong, while we are polite to a boundless public one: we are still industrious to the last hour of the day, though we add the gambler's fury to the laborer's patience; we are still brave to the death, though incapable of discerning true cause for battle; and are still true in affection to our own flesh, to the death, as the sea-

monsters are, and the rock-eagles. And there is hope for a nation while this can be still said of it. As long as it holds its life in its hand, ready to give it for its honor (though a foolish honor), for its love (though a selfish love), and for its business (though a base business), there is hope for it. But hope only; for this instinctive, reckless virtue cannot last. No nation can last, which has made a mob of itself, however generous at heart. It must discipline its passions, and direct them, or they will discipline *it*, one day, with scorpion-whips. Above all, a nation cannot last as a money-making mob: it cannot with impunity, — it cannot with existence, — go on despising literature, despising science, despising art, despising nature, despising compassion, and concentrating its soul on Pence. Do you think these are harsh or wild words? Have patience with me but a little longer. I will prove their truth to you, clause by clause

32. I. I say first we have despised literature. What do we, as a nation, care about books? How much do you think we spend altogether on our libraries, public or private, as compared with what we spend on our horses? If a man spends lavishly on his library, you call him mad — a bibliomaniac. But you never call any one a horse-maniac, though men ruin themselves every day by their horses, and you do not hear of people ruining themselves by their books. Or, to go lower still, how much do you think the contents of the book-shelves of the United Kingdom, public and private, would fetch, as compared with the contents of its wine-cellars? What position would its expenditure on literature take, as compared with its expenditure on luxurious eating? We talk of food for the mind, as of food for the body: now a good book contains such food inexhaustibly; it is a provision for life, and for the best part of us; yet how long most people would look at the best book before they would give the price of a large turbot for it!

Though there have been men who have pinched their stomachs and bared their backs to buy a book, whose libraries were cheaper to them, I think, in the end, than most men's dinners are. We are few of us put to such trial, and more the pity; for, indeed, a precious thing is all the more precious to us if it has been won by work or economy; and if public libraries were half as costly as public dinners, or books cost the tenth part of what bracelets do, even foolish men and women might sometimes suspect there was good in reading, as well as in munching and sparkling; whereas the very cheapness of literature is making even wise people forget that if a book is worth reading, it is worth buying. No book is worth anything which is not worth *much;* nor is it serviceable, until it has been read, and re-read, and loved, and loved again; and marked, so that you can refer to the passages you want in it, as a soldier can seize the weapon he needs in an armory, or a house-wife bring the spice she needs from her store. Bread of flour is good; but there is bread, sweet as honey, if we would eat it, in a good book; and the family must be poor indeed which, once in their lives, cannot, for such multipliable barley-loaves, pay their baker's bill. We call ourselves a rich nation, and we are filthy and foolish enough to thumb each other's books out of circulating libraries!

33. II. I say we have despised science. "What!" you exclaim, "are we not foremost in all discovery,* and is not the whole world giddy by reason, or unreason, of our inventions?" Yes, but do you suppose that is national work? That work is all done *in spite* of the nation; by private people's zeal and money. We are glad enough, indeed, to make our profit of science; we snap up anything in the way

*Since this was written, the answer has become definitely — No; we having surrendered the field of Arctic discovery to the Continental nations, as being ourselves too poor to pay for ships.

of a scientific bone that has meat on it, eagerly enough; but if the scientific man comes for a bone or a crust to *us*, that is another story. What have we publicly done for science? We are obliged to know what o'clock it is, for the safety of our ships, and therefore we pay for an Observatory; and we allow ourselves, in the person or our Parliament, to be annually tormented into doing something, in a slovenly way, for the British Museum; sullenly apprehending that to be a place for keeping stuffed birds in, to amuse our children. If anybody will pay for their own telescope, and resolve another nebula, we cackle over the discernment as if it were our own; if one in ten thousand of our hunting squires suddenly perceives that the earth was indeed made to be something else than a portion for foxes, and burrows in it himself, and tells us where the gold is, and where the coals, we understand that there is some use in that; and very properly knight him: but is the accident of his having found out how to employ himself usefully any credit to *us?* (The negation of such discovery among his brother squires may perhaps be some *discredit* to us, if we would consider of it.) But if you doubt these generalities, here is one fact for us all to meditate upon, illustrative of our love of science. Two years ago there was a collection of the fossils of Solenhofen to be sold in Bavaria: the best in existence, containing many specimens unique for perfectness, and one, unique as an example of a species (a whole kingdom of unknown living creatures being announced by that fossil). This collection, of which the mere market worth, among private buyers, would probably have been some thousand or twelve hundred pounds, was offered to the English nation for seven hundred: but we would not give seven hundred, and the whole series would have been in the Munich museum at this moment, if Professor Owen*

*I state this fact without Professor Owen's permission, which of course he could not with propriety have granted, had I asked it; but I consider

had not, with loss of his own time, and patient tormenting of the British public in person of its representatives, got leave to give four hundred pounds at once, and himself become answerable for the other three! which the said public will doubtless pay him eventually, but sulkily, and caring nothing about the matter all the while; only always ready to cackle if any credit comes of it. Consider, I beg of you, arithmetically, what this fact means. Your annual expenditure for public purposes (a third of it for military apparatus) is at least fifty millions. Now £700 is to £50,000,000, roughly, as seven-pence to two thousand pounds. Suppose, then, a gentleman of unknown income, but whose wealth was to be conjectured from the fact that he spent two thousand a year on his park walls and footmen only, professes himself fond of science; and that one of his servants comes eagerly to tell him that an unique collection of fossils, giving clue to a new era of creation, is to be had for the sum of seven-pence sterling; and that the gentleman, who is fond of science, and spends two thousand a year on his park, answers, after keeping his servant waiting several months, "Well! I'll give you four-pence for them, if you will be answerable for the extra three-pence yourself, till next year!"

34. III. I say you have despised Art! "What!" you answer, "have we not Art exhibitions, miles long? and do not we pay thousands of pounds for single pictures? and have we not Art schools and institutions, more than ever nation had before?" Yes, truly, but all that is for the sake of the shop. You would fain sell canvas as well as coals, and crockery as well as iron; you would take every other nation's bread out of its mouth if you could*; not being

it so important that the public should be aware of the fact, that I do what seems to me right, though rude.

* That was our real idea of "Free Trade" — "All the trade to myself." You find now that by "competition" other people can manage to sell

able to do that, your ideal of life is to stand in the thoroughfares of the world, like Ludgate apprentices, screaming to every passer-by, "What d'ye lack?" You know nothing of your own faculties or circumstances; you fancy that, among your damp, flat, fat fields of clay, you can have as quick art-fancy as the Frenchman among his bronzed vines, or the Italian under his volcanic cliffs; — that Art may be learned as book-keeping is, and when learned, will give you more books to keep. You care for pictures, absolutely, no more than you do for the bills pasted on your dead walls. There is always room on the wall for the bills to be read, — never for the pictures to be seen. You do not know what pictures you have (by repute) in the country, nor whether they are false or true, nor whether they are taken care of or not; in foreign countries, you calmly see the noblest existing pictures in the world rotting in abandoned wreck — (in Venice you saw the Austrian guns deliberately pointed at the palaces containing them), and if you heard that all the fine pictures in Europe were made into sandbags to-morrow on the Austrian forts, it would not trouble you so much as the chance of a brace or two of game less in your own bags, in a day's shooting. That is your national love of Art.

35. IV. You have despised nature; that is to say, all the deep and sacred sensations of natural scenery. The French revolutionists made stables of the cathedrals of France; you have made racecourses of the cathedrals of the earth. Your *one* conception of pleasure is to drive in railroad carriages round their aisles, and eat off their altars.* You have put

something as well as you — and now we call for Protection again. Wretches!

* I meant that the beautiful places of the world — Switzerland, Italy, South Germany, and so on — are, indeed, the truest cathedrals — places to be reverent in, and to worship in; and that we only care to drive through them; and to eat and drink at their most sacred places.

a railroad-bridge over the falls of Schaffhausen. You have tunnelled the cliffs of Lucerne by Tell's chapel; you have destroyed the Clarens shore of the Lake of Geneva; there is not a quiet valley in England that you have not filled with bellowing fire; there is no particle left of English land which you have not trampled coal ashes into*—nor any foreign city in which the spread of your presence is not marked among its fair old streets and happy gardens by a consuming white leprosy of new hotels and perfumers' shops: the Alps themselves, which your own poets used to love so reverently, you look upon as soaped poles in a bear-garden, which you set yourselves to climb and slide down again, with "shrieks of delight." When you are past shrieking, having no human articulate voice to say you are glad with, you fill the quietude of their valleys with gun-powder blasts, and rush home, red with cutaneous eruption of conceit, and voluble with convulsive hiccough of self-satisfaction. I think nearly the two sorrowfullest spectacles I have ever seen in humanity, taking the deep inner significance of them, are the English mobs in the valley of Chamouni, amusing themselves with firing rusty howitzers; and the Swiss vintagers of Zurich expressing their Christian thanks for the gift of the vine, by assembling in knots in the "towers of the vineyards," and slowly loading and firing horse-pistols from morning till evening. It is pitiful, to have dim conceptions of duty; more pitiful, it seems to me, to have conceptions like these, of mirth.

36. Lastly. You despise compassion. There is no need of words of mine for proof of this. I will merely print one of the newspaper paragraphs which I am in the habit of cutting out and throwing into my store-drawer; here is one from a "Daily Telegraph" of an early date this year (1865)

* I was singularly struck, some years ago, by finding all the river shore at Richmond, in Yorkshire, black in its earth, from the mere drift of soot-laden air from places many miles away.

(date which, though by me carelessly left unmarked, is easily discoverable; for on the back of the slip, there is the announcement that "yesterday the seventh of the special services of this year was performed by the Bishop of Ripon in St. Paul's"); it relates only one of such facts as happen now daily; this by chance having taken a form in which it came before the coroner. I will print the paragraph in red. [Set in italic type here. Ed.] Be sure, the facts themselves are written in that colour, in a book which we shall all of us, literate or illiterate, have to read our page of, some day.

An inquiry was held on Friday by Mr. Richards, deputy coroner, at the White Horse tavern, Christ Church, Spital-fields, respecting the death of Michael Collins, aged 58 years. Mary Collins, a miserable-looking woman, said that she lived with the deceased and his son in a room at 2, Cobb's Court, Christ Church. Deceased was a "translator" of boots. Witness went out and bought old boots; deceased and his son made them into good ones, and then witness sold them for what she could get at the shops, which was very little indeed. Deceased and his son used to work night and day to try and get a little bread and tea, and pay for the room (2s. a week), so as to keep the home together. On Friday-night week deceased got up from his bench and began to shiver. He threw down the boots, saying, "Somebody else must finish them when I am gone, for I can do no more." There was no fire, and he said, "I would be better if I was warm." Witness therefore took two pairs of translated boots to sell at the shop, but she could only get 14d. for the two pairs, for the people at the shop said, "We must have our profit." Witness got 14lb. of coal, and a little tea and bread. Her son sat up the whole night to make the "translations," to get money, but deceased died*

* One of the things which we must very resolutely enforce, for the good of all classes, in our future arrangements, must be that they wear no "translated" article of dress. See the preface.

*on Saturday morning. The family never had enough to eat. — Coroner: "It seems to me deplorable that you did not go into the workhouse." Witness: "We wanted the comforts of our little home." A juror asked what the comforts were, for he only saw a little straw in the corner of the room, the windows of which were broken. The witness began to cry, and said that they had a quilt and other little things. The deceased said he never would go into the workhouse. In summer, when the season was good, they sometimes made as much as 10s. profit in the week. They then always saved towards the next week, which was generally a bad one. In winter they made not half so much. For three years they had been getting from bad to worse. — Cornelius Collins said that he had assisted his father since 1847. They used to work so far into the night that both nearly lost their eyesight. Witness now had a film over his eyes. Five years ago deceased applied to the parish for aid. The relieving officer gave him a 4lb. loaf, and told him if he came again he should get the "stones." * That*

* This abbreviation of the penalty of useless labor is curiously coincident in verbal form with a certain passage which some of us may remember. It may perhaps be well to preserve beside this paragraph another cutting out of my store-drawer, from the "Morning Post," of about a parallel date, Friday, March 10th, 1865: — "The *salons* of Mme. C——, who did the honors with clever imitative grace and elegance, were crowded with princes, dukes, marquises, and counts — in fact, with the same *male* company as one meets at the parties of the Princess Metternich and Madame Drouyn de Lhuys. Some English peers and members of Parliament were present, and appeared to enjoy the animated and dazzling improper scene. On the second floor the supper tables were loaded with every delicacy of the season. That your readers may form some idea of the dainty fare of the Parisian demi-monde, I copy the menu of the supper, which was served to all the guests (about 200) seated at four o'clock. Choice Yquem, Johannisberg, Laffitte, Tokay, and champagne of the finest vintages were served most lavishly throughout the morning. After supper dancing was resumed with increased animation, and the ball terminated with a *chaine diabolique* and a *cancan d'enfer* at seven in the morning. (Morning service — 'Ere the fresh lawns appeared, under the opening eyelids of the Morn.') Here is the menu: — 'Consommé de volaille à la

disgusted deceased, and he would have nothing to do with them since. They got worse and worse until last Friday week, when they had not even a halfpenny to buy a candle. Deceased then lay down on the straw, and said he could not live till morning. — A juror: "You are dying of starvation yourself, and you ought to go into the house until the summer." — Witness: "If we went in, we should die. When we come out in the summer, we should be like people dropped from the sky. No one would know us, and we would not have even a room. I could work now if I had food, for my sight would get better." Dr. G. P. Walker said deceased died from syncope, from exhaustion from want of food. The deceased had had no bedclothes. For four months he had had nothing but bread to eat. There was not a particle of fat in the body. There was no disease, but if there had been medical attendance, he might have survived the syncope or fainting. The coroner having remarked upon the painful nature of the case, the jury returned the following verdict, "That deceased died from exhaustion from want of food and the common necessaries of life; also through want of medical aid."

37. "Why would witness not go into the workhouse?" you ask. Well, the poor seem to have a prejudice against the workhouse which the rich have not; for of course every one who takes a pension from Government goes into the workhouse on a grand scale*: only the workhouses for the rich do not involve the idea of work, and should be called

Bagration: 16 hors-d'œuvres variés. Bouchées à la Talleyrand. Saumons froids, sauce Ravigote. Filets de bœuf en Bellevue, timbales milanaises, chaudfroid de gibier. Dindes truffées. Pâtés de foies gras, buissons d'écrevisses, salades vénétiennes, gelées blanches aux fruits, gateaux mancini, parisiens et parisiennes. Fromages glacés. Ananas. Dessert.'"

* Please observe this statement, and think of it, and consider how it happens that a poor old woman will be ashamed to take a shilling a week from the country — but no one is ashamed to take a pension of a thousand a year.

play-houses. But the poor like to die independently, it appears; perhaps if we made the play-houses for them pretty and pleasant enough, or gave them their pensions at home, and allowed them a little introductory peculation with the public money, their minds might be reconciled to the conditions. Meantime, here are the facts: we make our relief either so insulting to them, or so painful, that they rather die than take it at our hands; or, for third alternative, we leave them so untaught and foolish that they starve like brute creatures, wild and dumb, not knowing what to do, or what to ask. I say, you despise compassion; if you did not, such a newspaper paragraph would be as impossible in a Christian country as a deliberate assassination permitted in its public streets.* "Christian"

*I am heartily glad to see such a paper as the "Pall Mall Gazette" established; for the power of the press in the hands of highly-educated men, in independent position, and of honest purpose, may indeed become all that it has been hitherto vainly vaunted to be. Its editors will therefore, I doubt not, pardon me, in that, by very reason of my respect for the journal, I do not let pass unnoticed an article in its third number, page 5, which was wrong in every word of it, with the intense wrongness which only an honest man can achieve who has taken a false turn of thought in the outset, and is following it, regardless of consequences. It contained at the end this notable passage: —

"The bread of affliction, and the water of affliction — aye, and the bedstead and blankets of affliction, are the very utmost that the law ought to give to *outcasts merely as outcasts*." I merely put beside this expression of the gentlemanly mind of England in 1865, a part of the message which Isaiah was ordered to "lift up his voice like a trumpet" in declaring to the gentlemen of his day: "Ye fast for strife, and to smite with the fist of wickedness. Is not this the fast that I have chosen, to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor *that are cast out* (margin, 'afflicted') to thy house?" The falsehood on which the writer had mentally founded himself, as previously stated by him, was this: "To confound the functions of the dispensers of the poor-rates with those of the dispensers of a charitable institution is a great and pernicious error." This sentence is so accurately and exquisitely wrong, that its substance must be thus reversed in our minds before we can deal with any existing problem of national distress. "To understand that the dispensers of the poor-rates are the almoners of the nation, and should distribute its alms with a gentle-

did I say? Alas, if we were but wholesomely *un*-Christian, it would be impossible: it is our imaginary Christianity that helps us to commit these crimes, for we revel and luxuriate in our faith, for the lewd sensation of it; dressing *it* up, like everything else, in fiction. The dramatic Christianity of the organ and aisle, of dawn-service and twilight-revival — the Christianity which we do not fear to mix the mockery of, pictorially, with our play about the devil, in our Satanellas, — Roberts, — Fausts; chanting hymns through traceried windows for background effect, and artistically modulating the "Dio" through variation on variation of mimicked prayer: (while we distribute tracts, next day, for the benefit of uncultivated swearers, upon what we suppose to be the signification of the Third Commandment; —) this gas-lighted, and gas-inspired, Christianity, we are triumphant in, and draw back the hem of our robes from the touch of the heretics who dispute it. But to do a piece of common Christian righteousness in a plain English word or deed; to make Christian law any rule of life, and found one National act or hope thereon, — we know too well what our faith comes to for that! You might sooner get lightning out of incense smoke than true action or passion out of your modern English religion. You had better get rid of the smoke, and the organ pipes, both: leave them, and the Gothic windows, and the painted glass, to the property man; give up your carburetted hydrogen ghost in one healthy expiration, and look after Lazarus at the doorstep. For there is a true Church wherever one hand meets another helpfully, and that is the only holy or Mother Church which ever was, or ever shall be.

ness and freedom of hand as much greater and franker than that possible to individual charity, as the collective national wisdom and power may be supposed greater than those of any single person, is the foundation of all law respecting pauperism." (Since this was written the "Pall Mall Gazette" has become a mere party paper — like the rest; but it writes well, and does more good than mischief on the whole.)

38. All these pleasures then, and all these virtues, I repeat, you nationally despise. You have, indeed, men among you who do not; by whose work, by whose strength, by whose life, by whose death, you live, and never thank them. Your wealth, your amusement, your pride, would all be alike impossible, but for those whom you scorn or forget. The policeman, who is walking up and down the black lane all night to watch the guilt you have created there; and may have his brains beaten out, and be maimed for life, at any moment, and never be thanked; the sailor wrestling with the sea's rage; the quiet student poring over his book or his vial; the common worker, without praise, and nearly without bread, fulfilling his task as your horses drag your carts, hopeless, and spurned of all: these are the men by whom England lives; but they are not the nation; they are only the body and nervous force of it, acting still from old habit in a convulsive perseverance, while the mind is gone. Our National wish and purpose are only to be amused; our National religion is the performance of church ceremonies, and preaching of soporific truths (or untruths) to keep the mob quietly at work, while we amuse ourselves; and the necessity for this amusement is fastening on us, as a feverish disease of parched throat and wandering eyes — senseless, dissolute, merciless. How literally that word *Dis*-Ease, the Negation and possibility Ease, expresses the entire moral state of our English Industry and its Amusements!

39. When men are rightly occupied, their amusement grows out of their work, as the color-petals out of a fruitful flower; — when they are faithfully helpful and compassionate, all their emotions become steady, deep, perpetual, and vivifying to the soul as the natural pulse to the body. But now, having no true business, we pour our whole masculine energy into the false business of money-making; and having no true emotion, we must have false emotions dressed up for us to play with, not innocently, as children with

dolls, but guiltily and darkly, as the idolatrous Jews with their pictures on cavern walls, which men had to dig to detect. The justice we do not execute, we mimic in the novel and on the stage; for the beauty we destroy in nature, we substitute the metamorphosis of the pantomime, and (the human nature of us imperatively requiring awe and sorrow of *some* kind) for the noble grief we should have borne with our fellows, and the pure tears we should have wept with them, we gloat over the pathos of the police court, and gather the night-dew of the grave.

40. It is difficult to estimate the true significance of these things; the facts are frightful enough; — the measure of national fault involved in them is perhaps not as great as it would at first seem. We permit, or cause, thousands of deaths daily, but we mean no harm; we set fire to houses, and ravage peasants' fields, yet we should be sorry to find we had injured anybody. We are still kind at heart; still capable of virtue, but only as children are. Chalmers, at the end of his long life, having had much power with the public, being plagued in some serious matter by a reference to "public opinion," uttered the impatient exclamation, "The public is just a great baby!" And the reason that I have allowed all these graver subjects of thought to mix themselves up with an inquiry into methods of reading, is that, the more I see of our national faults or miseries, the more they resolve themselves into conditions of childish illiterateness and want of education in the most ordinary habits of thought. It is, I repeat, not vice, not selfishness, not dulness of brain, which we have to lament; but an unreachable schoolboy's recklessness, only differing from the true schoolboy's in its incapacity of being helped, because it acknowledges no master.

41. There is a curious type of us given in one of the lovely, neglected works of the last of our great painters. It is a drawing of Kirkby Lonsdale churchyard, and of its

brook, and valley, and hills, and folded morning sky beyond. And unmindful alike of these, and of the dead who have left these for other valleys and for other skies, a group of schoolboys have piled their little books upon a grave, to strike them off with stones. So, also, we play with the words of the dead that would teach us, and strike them far from us with our bitter, reckless will; little thinking that those leaves which the wind scatters had been piled, not only upon a gravestone, but upon the seal of an enchanted vault — nay, the gate of a great city of sleeping kings, who would awake for us, and walk with us, if we knew but how to call them by their names. How often, even if we lift the marble entrance gate, do we but wander among those old kings in their repose, and finger the robes they lie in, and stir the crowns on their foreheads, and still they are silent to us, and seem but a dusty imagery; because we know not the incantation of the heart that would wake them; — which, if they once heard, they would start up to meet us in their power of long ago, narrowly to look upon us, and consider us; and, as the fallen kings of Hades meet the newly fallen, saying, "Art thou also become weak as we — art thou also become one of us?" so would these kings, with their undimmed, unshaken diadems, meet us, saying, "Art thou also become pure and mighty of heart as we? art thou also become one of us?"

42. Mighty of heart, mighty of mind — "magnanimous" — to be this, is indeed to be great in life; to become this increasingly, is, indeed, to "advance in life," — in life itself — not in the trappings of it. My friends, do you remember that old Scythian custom, when the head of a house died? How he was dressed in his finest dress, and set in his chariot, and carried about to his friends' houses; and each of them placed him at his table's head, and all feasted in his presence? Suppose it were offered to you in plain words, as it *is* offered to you in dire facts, that you should gain this

Scythian honor, gradually, while you yet thought yourself alive. Suppose the offer were this: You shall die slowly; your blood shall daily grow cold, your flesh petrify, your heart beat at last only as a rusted group of iron valves. Your life shall fade from you, and sink through the earth into the ice of Caina; but, day by day, your body shall be dressed more gayly, and set in higher chariots, and have more orders on its breast — crowns on its head, if you will. Men shall bow before it, stare and shout round it, crowd after it up and down the streets; build palaces for it, feast with it at their tables' heads all the night long; your soul shall stay enough within it to know what they do, and feel the weight of the golden dress on its shoulders, and the furrow of the crown-edge on the skull; — no more. Would you take the offer, verbally made by the death-angel? Would the meanest among us take it, think you? Yet practically and verily we grasp at it, every one of us, in a measure; many of us grasp at it in its fulness of horror. Every man accepts it, who desires to advance in life without knowing what life is; who means only that he is to get more horses, and more footmen, and more fortune, and more public honor, and — *not* more personal soul. He only is advancing in life, whose heart is getting softer, whose blood warmer, whose brain quicker, whose spirit is entering into Living* peace. And the men who have this life in them are the true lords or kings of the earth — they, and they only. All other kingships, so far as they are true, are only the practical issue and expression of theirs; if less than this, they are either dramatic royalties, — costly shows, set off, indeed, with real jewels instead of tinsel — but still only the toys of nations; or else, they are no royalties at all, but tyrannies, or the mere active and practical issue of national folly, for which reason I have said of them elsewhere, "Visible governments are the toys of some nations,

* "τὸ δὲ φρόνημα τοῦ πνεύματος ζωὴ καὶ εἰρήνη."

the diseases of others, the harness of some, the burdens of more."

43. But I have no words for the wonder with which I hear Kinghood still spoken of, even among thoughtful men, as if governed nations were a personal property, and might be bought and sold, or otherwise acquired, as sheep, of whose flesh their king was to feed, and whose fleece he was to gather; as if Achilles's indignant epithet of base kings, "people-eating," were the constant and proper title of all monarchs; and enlargement of a king's dominion meant the same thing as the increase of a private man's estate! Kings who think so, however powerful, can no more be the true kings of the nation than gadflies are the kings of a horse; they suck it, and may drive it wild, but do not guide it. They, and their courts, and their armies are, if one could see clearly, only a large species of marsh mosquito, with bayonet proboscis and melodious, bandmastered trumpeting, in the summer air; the twilight being, perhaps, sometimes fairer, but hardly more wholesome, for its glittering mists of midge companies. The true kings, meanwhile, rule quietly, if at all, and hate ruling; too many of them make "il gran rifiuto"; and if they do not, the mob, as soon as they are likely to become useful to it, is pretty sure to make *its* "gran rifiuto" of *them.*

44. Yet the visible king may also be a true one, some day, if ever day comes when he will estimate his dominion by the *force* of it, — not the geographical boundaries. It matters very little whether Trent cuts you a cantel out here, or Rhine rounds you a castle less there. But it does matter to you, king of men, whether you can verily say to this man "Go," and he goeth; and to another, "Come," and he cometh. Whether you can turn your people, as you can Trent — and where it is that you bid them come, and where go. It matters to you, king of men, whether your people hate you, and die by you, or love you, and live by you. You may

measure your dominion by multitudes, better than by miles; and count degrees of love-latitude, not from, but to, a wonderfully warm and infinite equator.

45. Measure! — nay, you cannot measure. Who shall measure the difference between the power of those who "do and teach," and who are greatest in the kingdoms of earth, as of heaven — and the power of those who undo, and consume — whose power, at the fullest, is only the power of the moth and the rust? Strange! to think how the Moth-kings lay up treasures for the moth; and the Rust-kings, who are to their people's strength as rust to armor, lay up treasures for the rust; and the Robber-kings, treasures for the robber; but how few kings have ever laid up treasures that needed no guarding — treasures of which, the more thieves there were, the better! Broidered robe, only to be rent; helm and sword, only to be dimmed; jewel and gold, only to be scattered; — there have been three kinds of kings who have gathered these. Suppose there ever should arise a Fourth order of kings, who had read, in some obscure writing of long ago, that there was a Fourth kind of treasure, which the jewel and gold could not equal, neither should it be valued with pure gold. A web made fair in the weaving, by Athena's shuttle; an armor forged, in divine fire by Vulcanian force; a gold to be mined in the very sun's red heart, where he sets over the Delphian cliffs; — deep-pictured tissue; — impenetrable armor; — potable gold; — the three great Angels of Conduct, Toil, and Thought, still calling to us, and waiting at the post of our doors, to lead us, with their winged power, and guide us, with their unerring eyes, by the path which no fowl knoweth, and which the vulture's eye has not seen! Suppose kings should ever arise, who heard and believed this word, and at last gathered and brought forth treasures of Wisdom — for their people?

46. Think what an amazing business *that* would be! How inconceivable, in the state of our present national

wisdom! That we should bring up our peasants to a book exercise instead of a bayonet exercise! — organize, drill, maintain with pay, and good generalship, armies of thinkers, instead of armies of stabbers! — find national amusement in reading-rooms as well as rifle-grounds; give prizes for a fair shot at a fact, as well as for a leaden splash on a target. What an absurd idea it seems, put fairly in words, that the wealth of the capitalists of civilized nations should ever come to support literature instead of war!

47. Have yet patience with me, while I read you a single sentence out of the only book, properly to be called a book, that I have yet written myself, the one that will stand (if anything stand), surest and longest of all work of mine: —

"It is one very awful form of the operation of wealth in Europe that it is entirely capitalists' wealth which supports unjust wars. Just wars do not need so much money to support them; for most of the men who wage such, wage them gratis; but for an unjust war, men's bodies and souls have both to be bought; and the best tools of war for them besides, which makes such war costly to the maximum; not to speak of the cost of base fear, and angry suspicion, between nations which have not grace nor honesty enough in all their multitudes to buy an hour's peace of mind with; as, at present, France and England, purchasing of each other ten millions sterling worth of consternation, annually (a remarkably light crop, half thorns and half aspen leaves, sown, reaped, and granaried by the 'science' of the modern political economist, teaching covetousness instead of truth). And, all unjust war being supportable, if not by pillage of the enemy, only by loans from capitalists, these loans are repaid by subsequent taxation of the people, who appear to have no will in the matter, the capitalists' will being the primary root of the war; but its real root is the covetousness of the whole nation, rendering it incapable of faith, frankness,

or justice, and bringing about, therefore, in due time, his own separate loss and punishment to each person."

48. France and England literally, observe, buy panic of each other; they pay, each of them, for ten thousand-thousand pounds' worth of terror, a year. Now suppose, instead of buying these ten millions' worth of panic annually, they made up their minds to be at peace with each other, and buy ten millions' worth of knowledge annually; and that each nation spent its ten thousand-thousand pounds a year in founding royal libraries, royal art galleries, royal museums, royal gardens, and places of rest. Might it not be better somewhat for both French and English?

49. It will be long, yet, before that comes to pass. Nevertheless, I hope it will not be long before royal or national libraries will be founded in every considerable city, with a royal series of books in them; the same series in every one of them, chosen books, the best in every kind, prepared for that national series in the most perfect way possible; their text printed all on leaves of equal size, broad of margin, and divided into pleasant volumes, light in the hand, beautiful, and strong, and thorough as examples of binders' work; and that these great libraries will be accessible to all clean and orderly persons at all times of the day and evening; strict law being enforced for this cleanliness and quietness.

50. I could shape for you other plans, for art galleries, and for natural history galleries, and for many precious — many, it seems to me, needful — things; but this book plan is the easiest and needfullest, and would prove a considerable tonic to what we call our British Constitution, which has fallen dropsical of late, and has an evil thirst, and evil hunger, and wants healthier feeding. You have got its corn laws repealed for it; try if you cannot get corn laws established for it, dealing in a better bread; — bread made of that old enchanted Arabian grain, the Sesame, which opens doors; — doors, not of robbers,' but of Kings' Treasuries.

Note to § 30.

Respecting the increase of rent by the deaths of the poor, for evidence of which, see the preface to the Medical Officer's report to the Privy Council, just published, there are suggestions in its preface which will make some stir among us, I fancy, respecting which let me note these points following: —

There are two theories on the subject of land now abroad, and in contention; both false.

The first is that, by Heavenly law, there have always existed, and must continue to exist, a certain number of hereditarily sacred persons to whom the earth, air, and water of the world belong, as personal property; of which earth, air, and water, these persons may, at their pleasure, permit, or forbid, the rest of the human race to eat, to breathe, or to drink. This theory is not for many years longer tenable. The adverse theory is that a division of the land of the world among the mob of the world would immediately elevate the said mob into sacred personages; that houses would then build themselves, and corn grow of itself; and that everybody would be able to live, without doing any work for his living. This theory would also be found highly untenable in practice.

It will, however, require some rough experiments and rougher catastrophes, before the generality of persons will be convinced that no law concerning anything — least of all concerning land, for either holding or dividing it, or renting it high, or renting it low — would be of the smallest ultimate use to the people, so long as the general contest for life, and for the means of life, remains one of mere brutal competition. That contest, in an unprincipled nation, will take one deadly form or another, whatever laws you make against it. For instance, it would be an entirely wholesome law for England, if it could be carried, that maximum limits

should be assigned to incomes according to classes; and that every nobleman's income should be paid to him as a fixed salary or pension by the nation; and not squeezed by him in variable sums, at discretion, out of the tenants of his land. But if you could get such a law passed to-morrow, and if, which would be farther necessary, you could fix the value of the assigned incomes by making a given weight of pure bread for a given sum, a twelve-month would not pass before another currency would have been tacitly established, and the power of accumulated wealth would have reasserted itself in some other article, or some other imaginary sign. There is only one cure for public distress — and that is public education, directed to make men thoughtful, merciful, and just. There are, indeed, many laws conceivable which would gradually better and strengthen the national temper; but, for the most part, they are such as the national temper must be much bettered before it would bear. A nation in its youth may be helped by laws, as a weak child by backboards, but when it is old it cannot that way strengthen its crooked spine.

And besides, the problem of land, at its worst, is a bye one; distribute the earth as you will, the principal question remains inexorable, — Who is to dig it? Which of us, in brief word, is to do the hard and dirty work for the rest — and for what pay? Who is to do the pleasant and clean work, and for what pay? Who is to do no work, and for what pay? And there are curious moral and religious questions connected with these. How far is it lawful to suck a portion of the soul out of a great many persons, in order to put the abstracted psychical quantities together and make one very beautiful or ideal soul? If we had to deal with mere blood instead of spirit, (and the thing might literally be done — as it has been done with infants before now)— so that it were possible by taking a certain quantity of blood from the arms of a given number of the mob, and

putting it all into one person, to make a more azure-blooded gentleman of him, the thing would of course be managed; but secretly, I should conceive. But now, because it is brain and soul that we abstract, not visible blood, it can be done quite openly, and we live, we gentlemen, on delicatest prey, after the manner of weasels; that is to say, we keep a certain number of clowns digging and ditching, and generally stupefied, in order that we, being fed gratis, may have all the thinking and feeling to ourselves. Yet there is a great deal to be said for this. A highly-bred and trained English, French, Austrian, or Italian gentleman (much more a lady), is a great production, — a better production than most statues; being beautifully colored as well as shaped, and plus all the brains; a glorious thing to look at, a wonderful thing to talk to; and you cannot have it, any more than a pyramid or a church, but by sacrifice of much contributed life. And it is, perhaps, better to build a beautiful human creature than a beautiful dome or steeple — and more delightful to look up reverently to a creature far above us, than to a wall; only the beautiful human creature will have some duties to do in return — duties of living belfry and rampart — of which presently.

LECTURE II. — LILIES.

OF QUEENS' GARDENS.

"Be thou glad, oh thirsting Desert; let the desert be made cheerful, and bloom as the lily; and the barren places of Jordan shall run wild with wood." — ISAIAH XXXV. 1. (Septuagint.)

51. IT will, perhaps, be well, as this Lecture is the sequel of one previously given, that I should shortly state to you my general intention in both. The questions specially proposed to you in the first, namely, How and What to Read, rose out of a far deeper one, which it was my endeavor to make you propose earnestly to yourselves, namely, *Why* to Read. I want you to feel, with me, that whatever advantage we possess in the present day in the diffusion of education and of literature, can only be rightly used by any of us when we have apprehended clearly what education is to lead to, and literature to teach. I wish you to see that both well-directed moral training and well-chosen reading lead to the possession of a power over the ill-guided and illiterate, which is, according to the measure of it, in the truest sense, *kingly;* conferring indeed the purest kingship that can exist among men: too many other kingships (however distinguished by visible insignia or material power) being either spectral, or tyrannous; — spectral — that is to say, aspects and shadows only of royalty, hollow as death, and which only the "likeness of a kingly crown have on"; or else tyrannous — that is to say, substituting their own will for the law of justice and love by which all true kings rule.

52. There is, then, I repeat — and as I want to leave this idea with you, I begin with it, and shall end with it — only one pure kind of kingship; an inevitable and eternal kind, crowned or not: the kingship, namely, which consists in a stronger moral state, and a truer thoughtful state, than that of others; enabling you, therefore, to guide, or to raise them. Observe that word "State"; we have got into a loose way of using it. It means literally the standing and stability of a thing; and you have the full force of it in the derived word "statue" — "the immovable thing." A king's majesty or "state," then, and the right of his kingdom to be called a state, depends on the movelessness of both: — without tremor, without quiver of balance; established and enthroned upon a foundation of eternal law which nothing can alter, nor overthrow.

53. Believing that all literature and all education are only useful so far as they tend to confirm this calm, beneficent, and *therefore* kingly, power, — first, over ourselves, and, through ourselves, over all around us, — I am now going to ask you to consider with me, farther, what special portion or kind of this royal authority, arising out of noble education, may rightly be possessed by women; and how far they also are called to a true queenly power, — not in their households merely, but over all within their sphere. And in what sense, if they rightly understood and exercised this royal or gracious influence, the order and beauty induced by such benignant power would justify us in speaking of the territories over which each of them reigned, as "Queens' Gardens."

54. And here, in the very outset, we are met by a far deeper question, which — strange though this may seem — remains among many of us yet quite undecided, in spite of its infinite importance.

We cannot determine what the queenly power of women should be, until we are agreed what their ordinary power

should be. We cannot consider how education may fit them for any widely extending duty, until we are agreed what is their true constant duty. And there never was a time when wilder words were spoken, or more vain imagination permitted, respecting this question — quite vital to all social happiness. The relations of the womanly to the manly nature, their different capacities of intellect or of virtue, seem never to have been yet estimated with entire consent. We hear of the "mission" and of the "rights" of Woman, as if these could ever be separate from the mission and the rights of Man; — as if she and her lord were creatures of independent kind, and of irreconcilable claim. This, at least, is wrong. And not less wrong — perhaps even more foolishly wrong (for I will anticipate thus far what I hope to prove) — is the idea that woman is only the shadow and attendant image of her lord, owing him a thoughtless and servile obedience, and supported altogether in her weakness, by the preëminence of his fortitude.

This, I say, is the most foolish of all errors respecting her who was made to be the helpmate of man. As if he could be helped effectively by a shadow, or worthily by a slave!

55. Let us try, then, whether we cannot get at some clear and harmonious idea (it must be harmonious if it is true) of what womanly mind and virtue are in power and office, with respect to man's; and how their relations, rightly accepted, aid, and increase, the vigor, and honor, and authority of both.

And now I must repeat one thing I said in the last lecture: namely, that the first use of education was to enable us to consult with the wisest and the greatest men on all points of earnest difficulty. That to use books rightly, was to go to them for help: to appeal to them when our own knowledge and power of thought failed: to be led by them into wider sight, — purer conception, —

than our own, and receive from them the united sentence of the judges and councils of all time, against our solitary and unstable opinion.

Let us do this now. Let us see whether the greatest, the wisest, the purest-hearted of all ages are agreed in any wise on this point: let us hear the testimony they have left respecting what they held to be the true dignity of woman, and her mode of help to man.

56. And first let us take Shakespeare.

Note broadly in the outset, Shakespeare has no heroes; — he has only heroines. There is not one entirely heroic figure in all his plays, except the slight sketch of Henry the Fifth, exaggerated for the purposes of the stage; and the still slighter Valentine in the Two Gentlemen of Verona. In his labored and perfect plays you have no hero. Othello would have been one, if his simplicity had not been so great as to leave him the prey of every base practice round him; but he is the only example even approximating to the heroic type. Coriolanus — Cæsar — Antony stand in flawed strength, and fall by their vanities; — Hamlet is indolent, and drowsily speculative; Romeo an impatient boy; the Merchant of Venice languidly submissive to adverse fortune; Kent, in King Lear, is entirely noble at heart, but too rough and unpolished to be of true use at the critical time, and he sinks into the office of a servant only. Orlando, no less noble, is yet the despairing toy of chance, followed, comforted, saved, by Rosalind. Whereas there is hardly a play that has not a perfect woman in it, steadfast in grave hope, and errorless purpose; Cordelia, Desdemona, Isabella, Hermione, Imogen, Queen Catherine, Perdita, Sylvia, Viola, Rosalind, Helena, and last, and perhaps loveliest, Virgilia, are all faultless; conceived in the highest heroic type of humanity.

57. Then observe, secondly,

The catastrophe of every play is caused always by the

folly or fault of a man; the redemption, if there be any, is by the wisdom and virtue of a woman, and, failing that, there is none. The catastrophe of King Lear is owing to his own want of judgment, his impatient vanity, his misunderstanding of his children; the virtue of his one true daughter would have saved him from all the injuries of the others, unless he had cast her away from him; as it is, she all but saves him.

Of Othello I need not trace the tale; nor the one weakness of his so mighty love; nor the inferiority of his perceptive intellect to that even of the second woman character in the play, the Emilia who dies in wild testimony against his error: —

> "Oh, murderous coxcomb! what should such a fool
> Do with so good a wife?"

In Romeo and Juliet, the wise and brave stratagem of the wife is brought to ruinous issue by the reckless impatience of her husband. In The Winter's Tale, and in Cymbeline, the happiness and existence of two princely households, lost through long years, and imperilled to the death by the folly and obstinacy of the husbands, are redeemed at last by the queenly patience and wisdom of the wives. In Measure for Measure, the foul injustice of the judge, and the foul cowardice of the brother, are opposed to the victorious truth and adamantine purity of a woman. In Coriolanus, the mother's counsel, acted upon in time, would have saved her son from all evil; his momentary forgetfulness of it is his ruin; her prayer, at last, granted, saves him — not, indeed, from death, but from the curse of living as the destroyer of his country.

And what shall I say of Julia, constant against the fickleness of a lover who is a mere wicked child? — of Helena, against the petulance and insult of a careless youth? — of the patience of Hero, the passion of Beatrice,

and the calmly devoted wisdom of the "unlessoned girl," who appears among the helplessness, the blindness, and the vindictive passions of men, as a gentle angel, bringing courage and safety by her presence, and defeating the worst malignities of crime by what women are fancied most to fail in, — precision and accuracy of thought.

58. Observe, further, among all the principal figures in Shakespeare's plays, there is only one weak woman — Ophelia; and it is because she fails Hamlet at the critical moment, and is not, and cannot in her nature be, a guide to him when he needs her most, that all the bitter catastrophe follows. Finally, though there are three wicked women among the principal figures, Lady Macbeth, Regan, and Goneril, they are felt at once to be frightful exceptions to the ordinary laws of life; fatal in their influence also, in proportion to the power for good which they have abandoned.

Such, in broad light, is Shakespeare's testimony to the position and character of women in human life. He represents them as infallibly faithful and wise counsellors, — incorruptibly just and pure examples, — strong always to sanctify, even when they cannot save.

59. Not as in any wise comparable in knowledge of the nature of man, — still less in his understanding of the causes and courses of fate, — but only as the writer who has given us the broadest view of the conditions and modes of ordinary thought in modern society, I ask you next to receive the witness of Walter Scott.

I put aside his merely romantic prose writings as of no value, and though the early romantic poetry is very beautiful, its testimony is of no weight, other than that of a boy's ideal. But his true works, studied from Scottish life, bear a true witness; and, in the whole range of these, there are but three men who reach the heroic type* — Dandie Din-

* I ought, in order to make this assertion fully understood, to have noted the various weaknesses which lower the ideal of other great charac-

mont, Rob Roy, and Claverhouse; of these, one is a border farmer; another a freebooter; the third a soldier in a bad cause. And these touch the ideal of heroism only in their courage and faith, together with a strong, but uncultivated, or mistakenly applied, intellectual power; while his younger men are the gentlemanly playthings of fantastic fortune, and only by aid (or accident) of that fortune, survive, not vanquish, the trials they involuntarily sustain. Of any disciplined, or consistent character, earnest in a purpose wisely conceived, or dealing with forms of hostile evil, definitely challenged and resolutely subdued, there is no trace in his conceptions of young men. Whereas in his imaginations of women, — in the characters of Ellen Douglas, of Flora MacIvor, Rose Bradwardine, Catherine Seyton, Diana Vernon, Lilias Redgauntlet, Alice Bridgenorth, Alice Lee, and Jeanie Deans, — with endless varieties of grace, tenderness, and intellectual power, we find in all a quite infallible sense of dignity and justice; a fearless, instant, and untiring self-sacrifice, to even the appearance of duty, much more to its real claims; and, finally, a patient wisdom of deeply-restrained affection, which does infinitely more than protect its objects from a momentary error; it gradually forms, animates, and exalts the characters of the unworthy lovers, until, at the close of the tale, we are just able, and no more, to take patience in hearing of their unmerited success.

So that, in all cases, with Scott as with Shakespeare, it is the woman who watches over, teaches, and guides the youth; it is never, by any chance, the youth who watches over, or educates, his mistress.

ters of men in the Waverley novels — the selfishness and narrowness of thought in Redgauntlet, the weak religious enthusiasm in Edward Glendinning, and the like; and I ought to have noticed that there are several quite perfect characters sketched sometimes in the backgrounds; three — let us accept joyously this courtesy to England and her soldiers — are English officers: Colonel Gardiner, Colonel Talbot, and Colonel Mannering.

60. Next, take, though more briefly, graver testimony — that of the great Italians and Greeks. You know well the plan of Dante's great poem — that it is a love-poem to his dead lady; a song of praise for her watch over his soul. Stooping only to pity, never to love, she yet saves him from destruction — saves him from hell. He is going eternally astray in despair; she comes down from heaven to his help, and throughout the ascents of Paradise is his teacher, interpreting for him the most difficult truths, divine and human; and leading him, with rebuke upon rebuke, from star to star.

I do not insist upon Dante's conception; if I began, I could not cease: besides, you might think this a wild imagination of one poet's heart. So I will rather read to you a few verses of the deliberate writing of a knight of Pisa to his living lady, wholly characteristic of the feeling of all the noblest men of the thirteenth, or early fourteenth, century, preserved among many other such records of knightly honor and love, which Dante Rossetti has gathered for us from among the early Italian poets.

"For lo! thy law is passed
That this my love should manifestly be
To serve and honor thee:
And so I do; and my delight is full,
Accepted for the servant of thy rule.

"Without almost, I am all rapturous,
Since thus my will was set:
To serve, thou flower of joy, thine excellence:
Nor ever seems it anything could rouse
A pain or a regret.
But on thee dwells my every thought and sense;
Considering that from thee all virtues spread
As from a fountain head, —
That in thy gift is wisdom's best avail,
And honor without fail;

With whom each sovereign good dwells separate,
Fulfilling the perfection of thy state.

"Lady, since I conceived
Thy pleasurable aspect in my heart,
My life has been apart
In shining brightness and the place of truth;
Which till that time, good sooth,
Groped among shadows in a darken'd place,
Where many hours and days
It hardly ever had remember'd good.
But now my servitude
Is thine, and I am full of joy and rest.
A man from a wild beast
Thou madest me, since for thy love I lived."

61. You may think, perhaps, a Greek knight would have had a lower estimate of women than this Christian lover. His spiritual subjection to them was indeed not so absolute; but as regards their own personal character, it was only because you could not have followed me so easily, that I did not take the Greek women instead of Shakespeare's; and instance, for chief ideal types of human beauty and faith, the simple mother's and wife's heart of Andromache; the divine, yet rejected wisdom of Cassandra; the playful kindness and simple princess-life of happy Nausicaa; the housewifely calm of that of Penelope, with its watch upon the sea; the ever patient, fearless, hopelessly devoted piety of the sister and daughter, in Antigone; the bowing down of Iphigenia, lamb-like and silent; and, finally, the expectation of the resurrection, made clear to the soul of the Greeks in the return from her grave of that Alcestis, who, to save her husband, had passed calmly through the bitterness of death.

62. Now I could multiply witness upon witness of this kind upon you if I had time. I would take Chaucer, and show you why he wrote a Legend of Good Women; but no Legend of Good

Men. I would take Spenser, and show you how all his fairy knights are sometimes deceived and sometimes vanquished; but the soul of Una is never darkened, and the spear of Britomart is never broken. Nay, I could go back into the mythical teaching of the most ancient times, and show you how the great people, — by one of whose princesses it was appointed that the Lawgiver of all the earth should be educated, rather than by his own kindred: — how that great Egyptian people, wisest then of nations, gave to their Spirit of Wisdom the form of a woman; and into her hand, for a symbol, the weaver's shuttle; and now the name and the form of that spirit, adopted, believed, and obeyed by the Greeks, became that Athena of the olive-helm, and cloudy shield, to faith in whom you owe, down to this date, whatever you hold most precious in art, in literature, or in types of national virtue.

63. But I will not wander into this distant and mythical element; I will only ask you to give its legitimate value to the testimony of these great poets and men of the world, — consistent, as you see it is, on this head. I will ask you whether it can be supposed that these men, in the main work of their lives, are amusing themselves with a fictitious and idle view of the relations between man and woman; nay, worse than fictitious or idle; for a thing may be imaginary, yet desirable, if it were possible; but this, their ideal of woman, is, according to our common idea of the marriage relation, wholly undesirable. The woman, we say, is not to guide, nor even to think for herself. The man is always to be the wiser; he is to be the thinker, the ruler, the superior in knowledge and discretion, as in power.

64. Is it not somewhat important to make up our minds on this matter? Are all these great men mistaken, or are we? Are Shakespeare and Æschylus, Dante and Homer, merely dressing dolls for us; or, worse than dolls, unnatural visions, the realization of which, were it possible, would bring anarchy

into all households and ruin into all affections? Nay, if you can suppose this, take lastly the evidence of facts given by the human heart itself. In all Christian ages which have been remarkable for their purity of progress, there has been absolute yielding of obedient devotion, by the lover, to his mistress. I say *obedient;* — not merely enthusiastic and worshipping in imagination, but entirely subject, receiving from the beloved woman, however young, not only the encouragement, the praise, and the reward of all toil, but, so far as any choice is open, or any question difficult of decision, the *direction* of all toil. That chivalry, to the abuse and dishonor of which are attributable primarily whatever is cruel in war, unjust in peace, or corrupt and ignoble in domestic relations; and to the original purity and power of which we owe the defence alike of faith, of law, and of love; — that chivalry, I say, in its very first conception of honorable life, assumes the subjection of the young knight to the command — should it even be the command in caprice — of his lady. It assumes this, because its masters knew that the first and necessary impulse of every truly taught and knightly heart is this of blind service to its lady: that where that true faith and captivity are not, all wayward and wicked passion must be; and that in this rapturous obedience to the single love of his youth, is the sanctification of all man's strength, and the continuance of all his purposes. And this, not because such obedience would be safe, or honorable, were it ever rendered to the unworthy; but because it ought to be impossible for every noble youth — it *is* impossible for every one rightly trained — to love any one whose gentle counsel he cannot trust, or whose prayerful command he can hesitate to obey.

65. I do not insist by any farther argument on this, for I think it should commend itself at once to your knowledge of what has been, and to your feeling of what should be. You cannot think that the buckling on of the knight's

armour by his lady's hand was a mere caprice of romantic fashion. It is the type of an eternal truth — that the soul's armour is never well set to the heart unless a woman's hand has braced it; and it is only when she braces it loosely that the honor of manhood fails. Know you not those lovely lines — I would they were learned by all youthful ladies of England —

> "Ah, wasteful woman! — she who may
> On her sweet self set her own price,
> Knowing he cannot choose but pay —
> How has she cheapen'd Paradise!
> How given for nought her priceless gift,
> How spoil'd the bread and spill'd the wine,
> Which, spent with due respective thrift,
> Had made brutes men, and men divine!" *

66. Thus much, then, respecting the relations of lovers I believe you will accept. But what we too often doubt is the fitness of the continuance of such a relation throughout the whole of human life. We think it right in the lover and mistress, not in the husband and wife. That is to say, we think that a reverent and tender duty is due to one whose affection we still doubt, and whose character we as yet do but partially and distantly discern; and that this reverence and duty are to be withdrawn, when the affection has become wholly and limitlessly our own, and the character has been so sifted and tried that we fear not to entrust it with the happiness of our lives. Do you not see how ignoble this is, as well as how unreasonable? Do you not feel that marriage, — when it is marriage at all, — is only the seal which marks the vowed transition of temporary into untiring service, and of fitful into eternal love?

* Coventry Patmore. You cannot read him too often or too carefully; as far as I know, he is the only living poet who always strengthens and purifies; the others sometimes darken, and nearly always depress, and discourage the imagination they deeply seize.

67. But how, you will ask, is the idea of this guiding function of the woman reconcilable with a true wifely subjection? Simply in that it is a *guiding*, not a determining, function. Let me try to show you briefly how these powers seem to be rightly distinguishable.

We are foolish, and without excuse foolish, in speaking of the "superiority" of one sex to the other, as if they could be compared in similar things. Each has what the other has not: each completes the other, and is completed by the other: they are in nothing alike, and the happiness and perfection of both depends on each asking and receiving from the other what the other only can give.

68. Now their separate characters are briefly these. The man's power is active, progressive, defensive. He is eminently the doer, the creator, the discoverer, the defender. His intellect is for speculation and invention; his energy for adventure, for war, and for conquest wherever war is just, wherever conquest necessary. But the woman's power is for rule, not for battle, — and her intellect is not for invention or creation, but for sweet ordering, arrangement, and decision. She sees the qualities of things, their claims, and their places. Her great function is Praise: she enters into no contest, but infallibly adjudges the crown of contest. By her office, and place, she is protected from all danger and temptation. The man, in his rough work in the open world, must encounter all peril and trial: — to him, therefore, must be the failure, the offence, the inevitable error: often he must be wounded, or subdued; often misled; and *always* hardened. But he guards the woman from all this; within his house, as ruled by her, unless she herself has sought it, need enter no danger, no temptation, no cause of error or offence. This is the true nature of home — it is the place of Peace; the shelter, not only from all injury, but from all terror, doubt, and division. In so far as it is not this, it is not home; so far as the anxieties of the outer life penetrate

into it, and the inconsistently-minded, unknown, unloved, or hostile society of the outer world is allowed by either husband or wife to cross the threshold, it ceases to be home; it is then only a part of that outer world which you have roofed over, and lighted fire in. But so far as it is a sacred place, a vestal temple, a temple of the hearth watched over by Household Gods, before whose faces none may come but those whom they can receive with love, — so far as it is this, and roof and fire are types only of a nobler shade and light, — shade as of the rock in a weary land, and light as of the Pharos in the stormy sea; — so far it vindicates the name, and fulfils the praise, of Home.

And wherever a true wife comes, this home is always round her. The stars only may be over her head; the glowworm in the night-cold grass may be the only fire at her foot: but home is yet wherever she is; and for a noble woman it stretches far round her, better than ceiled with cedar, or painted with vermilion, shedding its quiet light far, for those who else were homeless.

69. This, then, I believe to be, — will you not admit it to be? — the woman's true place and power. But do not you see that, to fulfil this, she must — as far as one can use such terms of a human creature — be incapable of error? So far as she rules, all must be right, or nothing is. She must be enduringly, incorruptibly good; instinctively, infallibly wise — wise, not for self-development, but for self-renunciation: wise, not that she may set herself above her husband, but that she may never fail from his side: wise, not with the narrowness of insolent and loveless pride, but with the passionate gentleness of an infinitely variable, because infinitely applicable, modesty of service — the true changefulness of woman. In that great sense — "La donna è mobile," not "Qual piúm' al vento"; no, nor yet "Variable as the shade, by the light quivering aspen made"; but variable as the *light*, manifold in fair and serene division,

that it may take the color of all that it falls upon, and exalt it.

70. II. I have been trying, thus far, to show you what should be the place, and what the power, of woman. Now, secondly, we ask, What kind of education is to fit her for these?

And if you indeed think this a true conception of her office and dignity, it will not be difficult to trace the course of education which would fit her for the one, and raise her to the other.

The first of our duties to her — no thoughtful persons now doubt this, — is to secure for her such physical training and exercise as may confirm her health, and perfect her beauty; the highest refinement of that beauty being unattainable without splendor of activity and of delicate strength. To perfect her beauty, I say, and increase its power; it cannot be too powerful, nor shed its sacred light too far: only remember that all physical freedom is vain to produce beauty without a corresponding freedom of heart. There are two passages of that poet who is distinguished, it seems to me, from all others — not by power, but by exquisite *right*ness — which point you to the source, and describe to you, in a few syllables, the completion of womanly beauty. I will read the introductory stanzas, but the last is the one I wish you specially to notice: —

"Three years she grew in sun and shower,
Then Nature said, 'A lovelier flower
'On earth was never sown;
'This child I to myself will take;
'She shall be mine, and I will make
'A lady of my own.

"'Myself will to my darling be
'Both law and impulse; and with me
'The girl, in rock and plain,

'In earth and heaven, in glade and bower,
'Shall feel an overseeing power
'To kindle, or restrain.

"'The floating clouds their state shall lend
'To her, for her the willow bend;
'Nor shall she fail to see
'Even in the motions of the storm,
'Grace that shall mould the maiden's form
'By silent sympathy.

"'And *vital feelings of delight*
'Shall rear her form to stately height,—
'Her virgin bosom swell.
'Such thoughts to Lucy I will give,
'While she and I together live,
'Here in this happy dell.'"*

"*Vital* feelings of delight," observe. There are deadly feelings of delight; but the natural ones are vital, necessary to very life.

And they must be feelings of delight, if they are to be vital. Do not think you can make a girl lovely, if you do not make her happy. There is not one restraint you put on a good girl's nature — there is not one check you give to her instincts of affection or of effort — which will not be indelibly written on her features, with a hardness which is all the more painful because it takes away the brightness from the eyes of innocence, and the charm from the brow of virtue.

71. This for the means: now note the end. Take from the same poet, in two lines, a perfect description of womanly beauty —

"A countenance in which did meet
Sweet records, promises as sweet."

*Observe, it is "Nature" who is speaking throughout, and who says, "while she and I together live."

The perfect loveliness of a woman's countenance can only consist in that majestic peace which is founded in memory of happy and useful years, — full of sweet records; and from the joining of this with that yet more majestic childishness, which is still full of change and promise; — opening always — modest at once, and bright, with hope of better things to be won, and to be bestowed. There is no old age where there is still that promise.

72. Thus, then, you have first to mould her physical frame, and then, as the strength she gains will permit you, to fill and temper her mind with all knowledge and thoughts which tend to confirm its natural instincts of justice, and refine its natural tract of love.

All such knowledge should be given her as may enable her to understand, and even to aid, the work of men: and yet it should be given, not as knowledge, — not as if it were, or could be, for her an object to know; but only to feel, and to judge. It is of no moment, as a matter of pride or perfectness in herself, whether she knows many languages or one; but it is of the utmost, that she should be able to show kindness to a stranger, and to understand the sweetness of a stranger's tongue. It is of no moment to her own worth or dignity that she should be acquainted with this science or that; but it is of the highest that she should be trained in habits of accurate thought; that she should understand the meaning, the inevitableness, and the loveliness of natural laws; and follow at least some one path of scientific attainment, as far as to the threshold of that bitter Valley of Humiliation, into which only the wisest and bravest of men can descend, owning themselves forever children, gathering pebbles on a boundless shore. It is of little consequence how many positions of cities she knows, or how many dates of events, or names of celebrated persons — it is not the object of education to turn the woman into a dictionary; but it is deeply necessary that she should be taught to enter

with her whole personality into the history she reads; to picture the passages of it vitally in her own bright imagination; to apprehend, with her fine instincts, the pathetic circumstances and dramatic relations, which the historian too often only eclipses by his reasoning, and disconnects by his arrangement: it is for her to trace the hidden equities of divine reward, and catch sight, through the darkness, of the fateful threads of woven fire that connect error with retribution. But, chiefly of all, she is to be taught to extend the limits of her sympathy with respect to that history which is being forever determined as the moments pass in which she draws her peaceful breath; and to the contemporary calamity, which, were it but rightly mourned by her, would recur no more hereafter. She is to exercise herself in imagining what would be the effects upon her mind and conduct, if she were daily brought into the presence of the suffering which is not the less real because shut from her sight. She is to be taught somewhat to understand the nothingness of the proportion which that little world in which she lives and loves, bears to the world in which God lives and loves; — and solemnly she is to be taught to strive that her thoughts of piety may not be feeble in proportion to the number they embrace, nor her prayer more languid than it is for the momentary relief from pain of her husband or her child, when it is uttered for the multitudes of those who have none to love them, — and is, "for all who are desolate and oppressed."

73. Thus far, I think, I have had your concurrence; perhaps you will not be with me in what I believe is most needful for me to say. There *is* one dangerous science for women — one which they must indeed beware how they profanely touch — that of theology. Strange, and miserably strange, that while they are modest enough to doubt their powers, and pause at the threshold of sciences where every step is demonstrable and sure, they will plunge head-

long, and without one thought of incompetency, into that science in which the greatest men have trembled, and the wisest erred. Strange, that they will complacently and pridefully bind up whatever vice or folly there is in them, whatever arrogance, petulance, or blind incomprehensiveness, into one bitter bundle of consecrated myrrh. Strange in creatures born to be Love visible, that where they can know least, they will condemn first, and think to recommend themselves to their Master, by crawling up the steps of His judgment-throne, to divide it with Him. Strangest of all, that they should think they were led by the Spirit of the Comforter into habits of mind which have become in them the unmixed elements of home discomfort; and that they dare to turn the Household Gods of Christianity into ugly idols of their own; — spiritual dolls, for them to dress according to their caprice; and from which their husbands must turn away in grieved contempt, lest they should be shrieked at for breaking them.

74. I believe, then, with this exception, that a girl's education should be nearly, in its course and material of study, the same as a boy's; but quite differently directed. A woman, in any rank of life, ought to know whatever her husband is likely to know, but to know it in a different way. His command of it should be foundational and progressive; hers, general and accomplished for daily and helpful use. Not but that it would often be wiser in men to learn things in a womanly sort of way, for present use, and to seek for the discipline and training of their mental powers in such branches of study as will be afterwards fitted for social service; but, speaking broadly, a man ought to know any language or science he learns, thoroughly — while a woman ought to know the same language, or science, only so far as may enable her to sympathize in her husband's pleasures, and in those of his best friends.

75. Yet, observe, with exquisite accuracy as far as she

reaches. There is a wide difference between elementary knowledge and superficial knowledge — between a firm beginning, and an infirm attempt at compassing. A woman may always help her husband by what she knows, however little; by what she half-knows, or mis-knows, she will only tease him.

And indeed, if there were to be any difference between a girl's education and a boy's, I should say that of the two the girl should be earlier led, as her intellect ripens faster, into deep and serious subjects: and that her range of literature should be, not more, but less frivolous; calculated to add the qualities of patience and seriousness to her natural poignancy of thought and quickness of wit; and also to keep her in a lofty and pure element of thought. I enter not now into any question of choice of books; only let us be sure that her books are not heaped up in her lap as they fall out of the package of the circulating library, wet with the last and lightest spray of the fountain of folly.

76. Or even of the fountain of wit; for with respect to the sore temptation of novel reading, it is not the badness of a novel that we should dread, so much as its overwrought interest. The weakest romance is not so stupefying as the lower forms of religious exciting literature, and the worst romance is not so corrupting as false history, false philosophy, or false political essays. But the best romance becomes dangerous, if, by its excitement, it renders the ordinary course of life uninteresting, and increases the morbid thirst for useless acquaintance with scenes in which we shall never be called upon to act.

77. I speak therefore of good novels only; and our modern literature is particularly rich in types of such. Well read, indeed, these books have serious use, being nothing less than treatises on moral anatomy and chemistry; studies of human nature in the elements of it. But I attach little weight to this function; they are hardly ever

read with earnestness enough to permit them to fulfil it. The utmost they usually do is to enlarge somewhat the charity of a kind reader, or the bitterness of a malicious one; for each will gather, from the novel, food for her own disposition. Those who are naturally proud and envious will learn from Thackeray to despise humanity; those who are naturally gentle, to pity it; those who are naturally shallow, to laugh at it. So, also, there might be a serviceable power in novels to bring before us, in vividness, a human truth which we had before dimly conceived; but the temptation to picturesqueness of statement is so great, that often the best writers of fiction cannot resist it; and our views are rendered so violent and one-sided, that their vitality is rather a harm than good.

78. Without, however, venturing here on any attempt at decision how much novel reading should be allowed, let me at least clearly assert this, that whether novels, or poetry, or history be read, they should be chosen, not for their freedom from evil, but for their possession of good. The chance and scattered evil that may here and there haunt, or hide itself in, a powerful book, never does any harm to a noble girl; but the emptiness of an author oppresses her, and his amiable folly degrades her. And if she can have access to a good library of old and classical books, there need be no choosing at all. Keep the modern magazine and novel out of your girl's way; turn her loose into the old library every wet day, and let her alone. She will find what is good for her; you cannot; for there is just this difference between the making of a girl's character and a boy's — you may chisel a boy into shape, as you would a rock, or hammer him into it, if he be of a better kind, as you would a piece of bronze. But you cannot hammer a girl into anything. She grows as a flower does, — she will wither without sun; she will decay in her sheath, as a narcissus will, if you do not give her air enough; she may fall, and defile her

head in dust, if you leave her without help at some moments of her life; but you cannot fetter her; she must take her own fair form and way, if she take any, and in mind as in body must have always

> "Her household motions light and free,
> And steps of virgin liberty."

Let her loose in the library, I say, as you do a fawn in the field. It knows the bad weeds twenty times better than you; and the good ones too, and will eat some bitter and prickly ones, good for it, which you had not the slightest thought would have been so.

79. Then, in art, keep the finest models before her, and let her practice in all accomplishments be accurate and thorough, so as to enable her to understand more than she accomplishes. I say the finest models — that is to say, the truest, simplest, usefullest. Note those epithets; they will range through all the arts. Try them in music, where you might think them the least applicable. I say the truest, that in which the notes most closely and faithfully express the meaning of the words, or the character of intended emotion; again, the simplest, that in which the meaning and melody are attained with the fewest and most significant notes possible; and, finally, the usefullest, that music which makes the best words most beautiful, which enchants them in our memories each with its own glory of sound, and which applies them closest to the heart at the moment we need them.

80. And not only in the material and in the course, but yet more earnestly in the spirit of it, let a girl's education be as serious as a boy's. You bring up your girls as if they were meant for sideboard ornaments, and then complain of their frivolity. Give them the same advantages that you give their brothers — appeal to the same grand instincts of virtue in them; teach *them*, also, that

courage and truth are the pillars of their being: — do you think that they would not answer that appeal, brave and true as they are even now, when you know that there is hardly a girls' school in this Christian kingdom where the children's courage or sincerity would be thought of half so much importance as their way of coming in at a door; and when the whole system of society, as respects the mode of establishing them in life, is one rotten plague of cowardice and imposture — cowardice, in not daring to let them live, or love, except as their neighbors choose; an imposture, in bringing, for the purposes of our own pride, the full glow of the world's worst vanity upon a girl's eyes, at the very period when the whole happiness of her future existence depends upon her remaining undazzled?

81. And give them, lastly, not only noble teachings, but noble teachers. You consider somewhat, before you send your boy to school, what kind of a man the master is; — whatsoever kind of man he is, you at least give him full authority over your son, and show some respect to him yourself: — if he comes to dine with you, you do not put him at a side table: you know also that, at college, your child's immediate tutor will be under the direction of some still higher tutor, for whom you have absolute reverence. You do not treat the Dean of Christ Church or the Master of Trinity as your inferiors.

But what teachers do you give your girls, and what reverence do you show to the teachers you have chosen? Is a girl likely to think her own conduct, or her own intellect, of much importance, when you trust the entire formation of her character, moral and intellectual, to a person whom you let your servants treat with less respect than they do your housekeeper (as if the soul of your child were a less charge than jams and groceries), and whom you yourself think you confer an honor upon by letting her sometimes sit in the drawing-room in the evening?

82. Thus, then, of literature as her help and thus of art. There is one more help which she cannot do without — one which, alone, has sometimes done more than all other influences besides, — the help of wild and fair nature. Hear this of the education of Joan of Arc: —

"The education of this poor girl was mean, according to the present standard; was ineffably grand, according to a purer philosophical standard; and only not good for our age, because for us it would be unattainable. . . .

"Next after her spiritual advantages, she owed most to the advantages of her situation. The fountain of Domrémy was on the brink of a boundless forest; and it was haunted to that degree by fairies, that the parish priest (*curé*) was obliged to read mass there once a year, in order to keep them in decent bounds. . . .

"But the forests of Domrémy — those were the glories of the land; for in them abode mysterious powers and ancient secrets that towered into tragic strength. Abbeys there were, and abbey windows, — 'like Moorish temples of the Hindoos,' — that exercised even princely power both in Touraine and in the German Diets. These had their sweet bells that pierced the forests for many a league at matins or vespers, and each its own dreamy legend. Few enough, and scattered enough, were these abbeys, so as in no degree to disturb the deep solitude of the region; yet many enough to spread a network or awning of Christian sanctity over what else might have seemed a heathen wilderness." *

Now, you cannot, indeed, have here in England, woods eighteen miles deep to the centre; but you can, perhaps, keep a fairy or two for your children yet, if you wish to keep them. But *do* you wish it? Suppose you had each, at the back of your houses, a garden, large enough for your children to play in, with just as much lawn as would give

* "Joan of Arc: in reference to M. Michelet's 'History of France.'" — De Quincey's Works, vol. iii., p. 217.

them room to run, — no more, — and that you could not change your abode; but that, if you chose, you could double your income, or quadruple it, by digging a coal shaft in the middle of the lawn, and turning the flower-beds into heaps of coke. Would you do it? I hope not. I can tell you, you would be wrong if you did, though it gave you income sixty-fold instead of four-fold.

83. Yet this is what you are doing with all England. The whole country is but a little garden, not more than enough for your children to run on the lawns of, if you would let them *all* run there. And this little garden you will turn into furnace ground, and fill with heaps of cinders, if you can; and those children of yours, not you, will suffer for it. For the fairies will not be all banished; there are fairies of the furnace as of the wood, and their first gift seems to be "sharp arrows of the mighty"; but their last gifts are "coals of juniper."

84. And yet I cannot — though there is no part of my subject that I feel more — press this upon you; for we made so little use of the power of nature while we had it that we shall hardly feel what we have lost. Just on the other side of the Mersey you have your Snowdon, and your Menai Straits, and that mighty granite rock beyond the moors of Anglesea, splendid in its heathery crest, and foot planted in the deep sea, once thought of as sacred — a divine promontory, looking westward; the Holy Head or Headland, still not without awe when its red light glares first through storm. These are the hills, and these the bays and blue inlets, which, among the Greeks, would have been always loved, always fateful in influence on the national mind. That Snowdon is your Parnassus; but where are its Muses? That Holyhead mountain is your Island of Ægina; but where is its Temple to Minerva?

85. Shall I read you what the Christian Minerva had achieved under the shadow of our Parnassus up to the

year 1848?—Here is a little account of a Welsh school, from page 261 of the Report on Wales, published by the Committee of Council on Education. This is a school close to a town containing 5000 persons:—

"I then called up a larger class, most of whom had recently come to the school. Three girls repeatedly declared they had never heard of Christ, and two that they had never heard of God. Two out of six thought Christ was on earth now" (they might have had a worse thought perhaps), "three knew nothing about the Crucifixion. Four out of seven did not know the names of the months nor the number of days in a year. They had no notion of addition; beyond two and two, or three and three, their minds were perfect blanks."

Oh, ye women of England! from the Princess of that Wales to the simplest of you, do not think your own children can be brought into their true fold of rest, while these are scattered on the hills, as sheep having no shepherd. And do not think your daughters can be trained to the truth of their own human beauty, while the pleasant places, which God made at once for their school-room and their play-ground, lie desolate and defiled. You cannot baptize them rightly in those inch-deep fonts of yours, unless you baptize them also in the sweet waters which the great Lawgiver strikes forth forever from the rocks of your native land—waters which a Pagan would have worshipped in their purity, and you worship only with pollution. You cannot lead your children faithfully to those narrow axe-hewn church altars of yours, while the dark azure altars in heaven—the mountains that sustain your island throne,—mountains on which a Pagan would have seen the powers of heaven rest in every wreathed cloud—remain for you without inscription; altars built, not to, but by an Unknown God.

86. III. Thus far, then, of the nature, thus far of the

teaching, of woman, and thus of her household office, and queenliness. We come now to our last, our widest question, — What is her queenly office with respect to the state?

Generally, we are under an impression that a man's duties are public, and a woman's private. But this is not altogether so. A man has a personal work or duty, relating to his own home, and a public work or duty, which is the expansion of the other, relating to the state. So a woman has a personal work or duty, relating to her own home, and a public work or duty, which is also the expansion of that.

Now, the man's work for his own home is, as has been said, to secure its maintenance, progress, and defence; the woman's to secure its order, comfort, and loveliness.

Expand both these functions. The man's duty, as a member of a commonwealth, is to assist in the maintenance, in the advance, in the defence of the state. The woman's duty, as a member of the commonwealth, is to assist in the ordering, in the comforting, and in the beautiful adornment of the state.

What the man is at his own gate, defending it, if need be, against insult and spoil, that also, not in a less, but in a more devoted measure, he is to be at the gate of his country, leaving his home, if need be, even to the spoiler, to do his more incumbent work there.

And, in like manner, what the woman is to be within her gates, as the centre of order, the balm of distress, and the mirror of beauty: that she is also to be without her gates, where order is more difficult, distress more imminent, loveliness more rare.

And as within the human heart there is always set an instinct for all its real duties, — an instinct which you cannot quench, but only warp and corrupt if you withdraw it from its true purpose: — as there is the intense instinct of love, which, rightly disciplined, maintains all the sanctities of life, and, misdirected, undermines them; and *must* do

either the one or the other; — so there is in the human heart an inextinguishable instinct, the love of power, which, rightly directed, maintains all the majesty of law and life, and, misdirected, wrecks them.

87. Deep rooted in the innermost life of the heart of man, and of the heart of woman, God set it there, and God keeps it there. Vainly, as falsely, you blame or rebuke the desire of power! — For Heaven's sake, and for Man's sake, desire it all you can. But *what* power? That is all the question. Power to destroy? the lion's limb and the dragon's breath? Not so. Power to heal, to redeem, to guide, and to guard. Power of the sceptre and shield; the power of the royal hand that heals in touching, — that binds the fiend, and looses the captive; the throne that is founded on the rock of Justice, and descended from only by steps of Mercy. Will you not covet such power as this, and seek such throne as this and be no more housewives, but queens?

88. It is now long since the women of England arrogated, universally, a title which once belonged to nobility only; and, having once been in the habit of accepting the simple title of gentlewoman, as correspondent to that of gentleman, insisted on the privilege of assuming the title of "Lady,"* which properly corresponds only to the title of "Lord."

I do not blame them for this; but only for their narrow motive in this. I would have them desire and claim the title of Lady, provided they claim, not merely the title, but the office and duty signified by it. Lady means "bread-giver" or "loaf-giver," and Lord means "maintainer of

* I wish there were a true order of chivalry instituted for our English youth of certain ranks, in which both boy and girl should receive, at a given age, their knighthood and ladyhood by true title; attainable only by certain probation and trial both of character and accomplishment; and to be forfeited, on conviction, by their peers, of any dishonorable act. Such an institution would be entirely, and with all noble results, possible, in a nation which loved honor. That it would not be possible among us, is not to the discredit of the scheme.

laws," and both titles have reference, not to the law which is maintained in the house, nor to the bread which is given to the household; but to law maintained for the multitude, and to bread broken among the multitude. So that a Lord has legal claim only to his title in so far as he is the maintainer of the justice of the Lord of Lords; and a Lady has legal claim to her title, only so far as she communicates that help to the poor representatives of her Master, which women once, ministering to Him of their substance, were permitted to extend to that Master Himself; and when she is known, as He Himself once was, in breaking of bread.

89. And this beneficent and legal dominion, this power of the Dominus, or House-Lord, and of the Domina, or House-Lady, is great and venerable, not in the number of those through whom it has lineally descended, but in the number of those whom it grasps within its sway; it is always regarded with reverent worship wherever its dynasty is founded on its duty, and its ambition correlative with its beneficence. Your fancy is pleased with the thought of being noble ladies, with a train of vassals? Be it so; you cannot be too noble, and your train cannot be too great; but see to it that your train is of vassals whom you serve and feed, not merely of slaves who serve and feed *you;* and that the multitude which obeys you is of those whom you have comforted, not oppressed, — whom you have redeemed, not led into captivity.

90. And this, which is true of the lower or household dominion, is equally true of the queenly dominion; — that highest dignity is open to you, if you will also accept that highest duty. Rex et Regina — Roi et Reine — "*Right*-doers"; they differ but from the Lady and Lord, in that their power is supreme over the mind as over the person — that they not only feed and clothe, but direct and teach. And whether consciously or not, you must be, in many a heart, enthroned: there is no putting by that crown; queens

you must always be; queens to your lovers; queens to your husbands and your sons; queens of higher mystery to the world beyond, which bows itself, and will forever bow, before the myrtle crown, and the stainless sceptre of womanhood. But, alas! you are too often idle and careless queens grasping at majesty in the least things, while you abdicate it in the greatest; and leaving misrule and violence to work their will among men, in defiance of the power which, holding straight in gift from the Prince of all Peace, the wicked among you betray, and the good forget.

91. "Prince of Peace." Note that name. When kings rule in that name, and nobles, and the judges of the earth, they also, in their narrow place, and mortal measure, receive the power of it. There are no other rulers than they: other rule than theirs is but *mis*rule; they who govern verily "Dei gratiâ" are all princes, yes, or princesses, of Peace. There is not a war in the world, no, nor an injustice, but you women are answerable for it; not in that you have provoked, but in that you have not hindered. Men, by their nature, are prone to fight; they will fight for any cause, or for none. It is for you to choose their cause for them, and to forbid them when there is no cause. There is no suffering, no injustice, no misery in the earth, but the guilt of it lies with you. Men can bear the sight of it, but you should not be able to bear it. Men may tread it down without sympathy in their own struggle; but men are feeble in sympathy, and contracted in hope; it is you only who can feel the depths of pain, and conceive the way of its healing. Instead of trying to do this, you turn away from it; you shut yourselves within your park walls and garden gates; and you are content to know that there is beyond them a whole world in wilderness — a world of secrets which you dare not penetrate, and of suffering which you dare not conceive.

92. I tell you that this is to me quite the most amazing

among the phenomena of humanity. I am surprised at no depths to which, when once warped from its honor, that humanity can be degraded. I do not wonder at the miser's death, with his hands, as they relax, dropping gold. I do not wonder at the sensualist's life, with the shroud wrapped about his feet. I do not wonder at the single-handed murder of a single victim, done by the assassin in the darkness of the railway, or reed-shadow of the marsh. I do not even wonder at the myriad-handed murder of multitudes, done boastfully in the daylight, by the frenzy of nations, and the immeasurable, unimaginable guilt, heaped up from hell to heaven, of their priests, and kings. But this is wonderful to me — oh, how wonderful! — to see the tender and delicate woman among you, with her child at her breast, and a power, if she would wield it, over it, and over its father, purer than the air of heaven, and stronger than the seas of earth — nay, a magnitude of blessing which her husband would not part with for all that earth itself, though it were made of one entire and perfect chrysolite: — to see her abdicate this majesty to play at precedence with her next-door neighbor! This is wonderful — oh, wonderful! — to see her, with every innocent feeling fresh within her, go out in the morning into her garden to play with the fringes of its guarded flowers, and lift their heads when they are drooping, with her happy smile upon her face, and no cloud upon her brow, because there is a little wall around her place of peace; and yet she knows, in her heart, if she would only look for its knowledge, that, outside of that little rose-covered wall, the wild grass, to the horizon, is torn up by the agony of men, and beat level by the drift of their life-blood.

93. Have you ever considered what a deep under meaning there lies, or at least may be read, if we choose, in our custom of strewing flowers before those whom we think most happy? Do you suppose it is merely to deceive them

into the hope that happiness is always to fall thus in showers at their feet? — that wherever they pass they will tread on herbs of sweet scent, and that the rough ground will be made smooth for them by depth of roses? So surely as they believe that, they will have, instead, to walk on bitter herbs and thorns; and the only softness to their feet will be of snow. But it is not thus intended they should believe; there is a better meaning in that old custom. The path of a good woman is indeed strewn with flowers; but they rise behind her steps, not before them. "Her feet have touched the meadows, and left the daisies rosy."

94. You think that only a lover's fancy; — false and vain! How if it could be true? You think this also, perhaps, only a poet's fancy —

> "Even the light harebell raised its head
> Elastic from her airy tread."

But it is little to say of a woman, that she only does not destroy where she passes. She should revive; the harebells should bloom, not stoop, as she passes. You think I am rushing into wild hyperbole? Pardon me, not a whit — I mean what I say in calm English, spoken in resolute truth. You have heard it said — (and I believe there is more than fancy even in that saying, but let it pass for a fanciful one) — that flowers only flourish rightly in the garden of some one who loves them. I know you would like that to be true; you would think it a pleasant magic if you could flush your flowers into brighter bloom by a kind look upon them: nay, more, if your look had the power, not only to cheer, but to guard; — if you could bid the black blight turn away, and the knotted caterpillar spare — if you could bid the dew fall upon them in the drought, and say to the south wind, in frost — "Come, thou south,

and breathe upon my garden, that the spices of it may flow out." This you would think a great thing? And do you think it not a greater thing, that all this, (and how much more than this!) you *can* do, for fairer flowers than these — flowers that could bless you for having blessed them, and will love you for having loved them; — flowers that have thoughts like yours, and lives like yours; and which, once saved, you save forever? Is this only a little power? Far among the moorlands and the rocks, — far in the darkness of the terrible streets, — these feeble florets are lying, with all their fresh leaves torn, and their stems broken — will you never go down to them, nor set them in order in their little fragrant beds, nor fence them, in their trembling, from the fierce wind? Shall morning follow morning, for you, but not for them; and the dawn rise to watch, far away, those frantic Dances of Death *; but no dawn rise to breathe upon these living banks of wild violet, and woodbine, and rose; nor call to you, through your casement, — call (not giving you the name of the English poet's lady, but the name of Dante's great Matilda, who on the edge of happy Lethe, stood, wreathing flowers with flowers), saying, —

> "Come into the garden, Maud,
> For the black bat, night, has flown,
> And the woodbine spices are wafted abroad
> And the musk of the roses blown"?

Will you not go down among them? — among those sweet living things, whose new courage, sprung from the earth with the deep color of heaven upon it, is starting up in strength of goodly spire; and whose purity, washed from the dust, is opening, bud by bud, into the flower of promise; — and still they turn to you and for you, "The Larkspur listens — I hear, I hear! And the Lily whispers — I wait."

* See note, p. 57.

95. Did you notice that I missed two lines when I read you that first stanza; and think that I had forgotten them? Hear them now: —

> "Come into the garden, Maud,
> For the black bat, night, has flown.
> Come into the garden, Maud,
> I am here at the gate, alone."

Who is it, think you, who stands at the gate of this sweeter garden, alone, waiting for you? Did you ever hear, not of a Maud, but a Madeleine, who went down to her garden in the dawn, and found One waiting at the gate, whom she supposed to be the gardener? Have you not sought Him often; sought Him in vain, all through the night; sought Him in vain at the gate of that old garden where the fiery sword is set? He is never there; but at the gate of *this* garden He is waiting always — waiting to take your hand — ready to go down to see the fruits of the valley, to see whether the vine has flourished, and the pomegranate budded. There you shall see with Him the little tendrils of the vines that His hand is guiding — there you shall see the pomegranate springing where His hand cast the sanguine seed; — more: you shall see the troops of the angel keepers that, with their wings, wave away the hungry birds from the pathsides where He has sown, and call to each other between the vineyard rows, "Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines, for our vines have tender grapes." Oh — you queens — you queens; among the hills and happy greenwood of this land of yours, shall the foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests; and in your cities shall the stones cry out against you, that they are the only pillows where the Son of Man can lay His head?

NOTES.

KINGS' TREASURIES.

This lecture was given at Rusholme Town Hall, near Manchester, December 6, 1864, in aid of a library fund for Rusholme Institute. It was first published, with "Queens' Gardens," in 1865. Mr. Ruskin spent much time helping to establish libraries and art galleries for the schools of England.

Page 21. l. "Sesame," a grain used for food by Eastern nations. See motto, translated from Greek, "a cake of sesame." In the story of "Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" (*Arabian Nights*), the spoken words, "Open, Sesame!" magically undo the door to the robbers' treasure cave. The lecture explains another kind of treasure, and another kind of "Open, Sesame!"

Page 22. l. 8. Mr. Ruskin's connections with various schools were as follows: 1858, Professor in School of Art, Cambridge; 1867, Rede lecturer in Cambridge University; 1869–1879 and 1883–1885, Slade Professor of Fine Art, Oxford University. In addition, he was constantly visiting schools, and talking or lecturing before them.

l. 20. "Visitors' bell." In England the fine houses are provided with two bells, one for visitors, the other for callers on business.

Page 23. l. 11. "Last infirmity."

> "Fame is the spur that the clear spirit doth raise
> (That last infirmity of noble mind)
> To scorn delights and live laborious days."
>
> — *Milton, Lycidas*, 70.

Also, Tacitus, *Historia*, IV. 6, "Erant quibus adpetentior famæ videretur quando etiam sapientibus cupido gloriæ novissima exuitur."

l. 22. "Mortal." Lat. *mors, mortis*, death.

l. 35. "My Lord." Twenty-four bishops and two archbishops of

the Established Church of England constitute the Lords Spiritual of the Upper House in Parliament. The archbishops are addressed as "My Lord Archbishop," and the bishops as "My Lord."

—*Whittaker's Almanac* (1899), p. 119.

Page 24. l. 21. Ruskin's writings on Political Economy are: (1862) "Unto this Last," four lectures; (1866) "Crown of Wild Olive"; (1871–1884) "Fors Clavigera: Letters to the Workmen and Laborers of Great Britain"; (1872) "Munera Pulveris," six essays. "Unto this Last" is the only one that was published before this passage was written. Mr. Ruskin's teaching in Political Economy is condensed by himself into "one great fact" in "Ad Valorem" ("Unto this Last"): "THERE IS NO WEALTH BUT LIFE. Life, including all its powers of love, of joy, and of admiration. That country is the richest which nourishes the greatest number of noble and happy human beings; that man is richest who, having perfected the functions of his own life to the utmost, has also the widest helpful influence, both personal and by means of his possessions, over the lives of others."

Page 25. l. 34. "When we most need them."

> "Never the time and the place
> And the loved one all together!" — *Browning.*

Page 29. l. 9. "Mixed with evil fragments." "In the building of a large book, there are always places where an indulged diffuseness weakens the fancy, and prolonged strain subdues the energy; when we have time to say all we wish, we usually say more than enough; and there are few subjects we can have the pride of exhausting, without wearying the reader." — *Arrows of the Chace.*

Note. *Queen of the Air*, § 106. "Of course art-gift and amiability of disposition are two different things; a good man is not necessarily a painter, nor does an eye for color necessarily imply an honest mind. But great art implies the union of both powers: it is the expression, by an art-gift, of a pure soul. If the gift is not there, we can have no art at all; and if a soul, — and a right soul, too, — is not there, the art is bad, however dexterous."

This thought is stated a little differently in the following [*The Two Paths.* Lecture at Manchester, 1859]: "I do not say in the least that in order to be a good painter you must be a good man; but I do say that in order to be a good natural painter there must be strong elements of good in the mind, however warped by other parts of the character."

See also *Queen of the Air*, § 102. "Great art is the expression of the mind of a great man, and mean art, that of the want of mind of a weak man. A foolish person builds foolishly, and a wise one, sensibly; a virtuous one, beautifully, and a vicious one, basely. If stonework is well put together, it means that a thoughtful man planned it, and a careful man cut it, and an honest man cemented it. If it has too much ornament, it means that its carver was too greedy of pleasure; if too little, that he was rude, or insensitive, or stupid, and the like. So that when once you have learned how to spell these most precious of all legends, — pictures and buildings, — you may read the characters of men, and of nations, in their art, as in a mirror; nay, as in a microscope, and magnified a hundred fold; for the character becomes passionate in the art, and intensifies itself in all its noblest or meanest delights. Nay, not only as in a microscope, but as under a scalpel, and in dissection; for a man may hide himself from you, or misrepresent himself to you, every other way; but he cannot in his work: there, be sure, you have him to the inmost. All that he likes, all that he sees, — all that he can do, — his imagination, his affections, his perseverance, his impatience, his clumsiness, cleverness, everything is there. If the work is a cobweb, you know it was made by a spider; if honeycomb, by a bee; a worm-cast is thrown up by a worm, and a nest wreathed by a bird; and a house built by a man, worthily, if he is worthy, and ignobly if he is ignoble."

Page 30. l. 3. "Dead."

> "There studious let me sit,
> And hold high converse with the mighty Dead."
> — *Thompson's Seasons: Winter*, l. 431.

l. 9. "Elysian gates." According to classical mythology, Elysium was the abode after death of those whose good deeds on earth outnumbered their evil deeds.

l. 11. "Faubourg St. Germain." A part of Paris where the nobility formerly resided, and where some of the old families still live.

l. 13. "Make yourself noble." "The intellect becomes noble and ignoble according to the food we give it, and the kind of subjects with which it is conversant." — *Stones of Venice.*

Also, "Studies have an influence and operation upon the manners of those that are conversant in them." — *Bacon:* note to essay on *Studies*, Anderson's edition.

Page 31. l. 13. "Cruel reticence." "It is a strange habit of wise

humanity to speak in enigmas only, so that the highest truths and usefullest laws must be hunted for through whole picture galleries of dreams, which to the vulgar seem dreams only. Thus Homer, the Greek tragedians, Plato, Dante, Chaucer, Shakespeare, and Goethe, have hidden all that is chiefly serviceable in their work, and in all the various literature they absorbed and reëmbodied, under types which have rendered it quite useless to the multitude."

— *Munera Pulveris*, § 87.

Also, "The meaning is withheld on purpose, and close locked, that you may not get it till you have forged the key of it in a furnace *of your own heating.*" — *Queen of the Air*, § 17.

Also, "Remember that our right reading (of great literature) is *wholly dependent on the materials we have in our own minds* for an intelligent answering sympathy." — *Queen of the Air*, § 8.

Pindar says, "There is many an arrow in my quiver, full of speech *to the wise*, but, for the many, they need interpreters."

Henry James in his story "The Figure in the Carpet," in the volume "Embarrassments," treats this "cruel reticence" of authors with delicate and tantalizing humor.

Page 32. l. 26. "Accuracy." Compare p. 90, *Lilies*, § 75.

l. 33. "Canaille." Lat. *canis*, dog.

In French, literally, a pack of dogs. Long used in France by the nobility to designate the common people.

Page 33. l. 16. "False Latin quantity." At the time when Mr. Ruskin was writing this, thirty years and more ago, English youths of good family were rigidly drilled in Latin prosody, from the grammar school through the university. Ideals in education have changed greatly since that time, owing in part, undoubtedly, to Mr. Ruskin's vigorous protests.

l. 34. "Chamæleon." Gr. χαμαί, ground, λέων, lion, *i.e.* "a low or dwarf lion" (*Century Dictionary*), a fanciful name for the little reptile.

Page 34. l. 17. "Taking the Form for the Power." "The second elementary cause of the loss of our nobly imaginative faculty is the worship of the Letter instead of the Spirit, in what we chiefly accept as the ordinance and teaching of Deity; and the apprehension of a healing sacredness in the act of reading the Book whose primal commands we refuse to obey.

"No feather idol of Polynesia was ever a sign of more shameful idolatry than the modern notion in the minds of certainly the majority of English religious persons, that the Word of God, by which the

heavens were of old, and the earth, . . . the Word of God, which came to the prophets, and comes still forever to all who will hear it; and which, called Faithful and True, is to lead forth, in the judgment, the armies of heaven, — that this Word of God may yet be bound at our pleasure in morocco, and carried about in a young lady's pocket, with tasselled ribands to mark the passages she most approves of."

— *Aratra Pentelici: Idolatry*, § 64.

2 *Corinthians*, iii. 6. "For the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life."

Page 35. l. 25. "Ecclesia." This word originally meant any meeting of the people; but since the existence of the Christian Church it has come to mean a meeting invested with the peculiar authority of religion. The struggle to maintain this authority has cost Europe many thousands of lives. Read, in the history of all European nations, the struggles of kingly power with ecclesiastical power.

"Presbyter," in the same way, from meaning simply a person advanced in years, has come to mean a person possessed of religious authority. The word *elder* has suffered similar change, but has kept both first and second meanings.

Page 36. l. 9. "Max Müller," 1823–1900, writer and lecturer on philology; born in Germany, but for many years Professor of Modern Languages and Literature, and later of Philology, at Oxford. The lectures referred to are, "Lectures on the Science of Language."

l. 27. "Lycidas." Milton's elegy (written 1637) on the death of his friend, Edward King, of Cambridge University.

l. 29. "The pilot." Matthew iv. 18–22.

l. 30. "Two keys." Matthew xvi. 18–22.

l. 35. "Climb into the fold." "So clomb this first great Thief into God's fold," *i.e.* Satan into the Garden of Eden.

— *Paradise Lost*, IV. 192.

Page 37. l. 3. "Worthy bidden guest." Matthew xxii. 3, 8, 9.

l. 4. "Mouths." Gluttons.

l. 7. "Recks." Compare *reckless*. "Sped." Compare *Merchant of Venice*, Act. II. sc. ix. l. 72.

"So be gone; you are sped."

l. 8. "List." Compare *listless*. "Lean and flashy songs." "Tenuis exsanguisque sermo," Cicero: *De Oratoribus*, I. xiii. 57. Also Bacon, essay on *Studies:* "Some books may be read by deputy, and extracts made from them by others; but . . . distilled books are like common distilled waters, *flashy* things."

l. 9. "Scrannel." Compare *scrawny*. "Pipes of wretched straw." The shepherd in classic literature played on pipes, or flutes that he made from reeds. Milton calls them straw, as being of poor quality, not capable of sweet tones.

l. 11. "Rank mist." False and corrupting doctrines.

l. 13. "Grim wolf." John x. 12, 13. Also, Milton's *Sonnet to Cromwell*: —

> "Help us to save free conscience from the paw
> Of hireling wolves."

Masson's *Life of Milton* (Vol. I. 638–640) says that there was much proselytizing at this time (1637), "hundreds of Catholic priests going about in England," "perverting" people to Catholicism. Archbishop Laud, while apparently disapproving of this in general, allowed it to go on. "Even moderate men saw in these 'perversions' a cause for general alarm. . . . Milton, in his *Lycidas*, written when public excitement was at its height, makes distinct reference to it." Professor Masson here quotes the couplet beginning, —

> "Besides what the grim wolf."

l. 18. "Episcopal." The duties of a bishop. Gr. ἐπίσκοπος, an overseer. Lat. *episcopus*; corruptly *biscopus*. A.S. *biscop*. English, *bishop*.

l. 20. "Mitred locks." A mitre was the head-dress of a bishop — a pointed cap. "No Bishop-lover." Milton was one of the leaders of Protestant thought in England in the seventeenth century.

Page 38. l. 34. "Ensamples." 1 Peter v. 3. Also, Chaucer, *Canterbury Tales*, —

> "This noble ensample to his sheep he yot,
> That first he wrought, and afterwards he taught."

Page 39. l. 23. "Oversee." 1 Peter v. 1.

Page 40. l. 2. "Salisbury, the capital of Wiltshire, in the southern part of England. The beautiful cathedral there (built 1220–1260) has a spire 406 feet high, said to be the highest spire in England.

Note. — The 13th Letter in *Time and Tide* says, "A bishop's duty being to watch over the *souls* of his people, and give account of every one of them, it becomes practically necessary for him first to give some account of their *bodies*. . . . Over every hundred of the families composing a Christian State, there should be appointed an overseer, or bishop, to render account, to the State, of the life of every

individual in those families, and to have care both of their interest and conduct . . . so that it may be impossible for any person, however humble, to suffer from unknown want, or live in unrecognized crimes."

l. 26. "Spirit, breath." Job xxvii. 3. "The spirit of God is in my nostrils." Marginal note, "*i.e.* the breath which God gave him." As Collingwood says, "a divine spirit, always indistinguishable, among simple folk, from the material breath in the nostrils of man." *The Life and Work of John Ruskin*, Vol. II. p. 367.

l. 29. "Wind bloweth," etc. John iii. 8.

l. 30. "So is every one," etc. John iii. 8.

Page 41. l. 13. "Cretinous." From *cretin*, a Swiss name for a deformed and hopeless idiot.

l. 29. Dante Alighieri. The great author of the *Divine Comedy;* born in Italy, 1265, died 1321. He was one of Ruskin's literary masters.

Dante's description of the keys, *Purgatorio,* Canto IX. l. 117 (Professor Norton's trans.), "One was of gold and the other was of silver; first with the white and then with the yellow" the sentinel angel unlocked the door. Professor Norton's note says, "The golden key is typical of power to open, and the silver of knowledge to whom to open."

Of the steps the first was of white marble, the second "tinct with deeper hue than perse," *i.e.* dark blue, "of calcined and uneven stone, cracked all asunder, lengthwise and across; the third and upper of red porphyry, red as blood that from a vein doth spirt." The threshold was a stone of diamond (Longfellow's trans.). (In Professor Norton's trans. *adamant.*) Professor Norton's note says that the first step signifies Confession, the second Contrition, and the third Satisfaction, or Penance; since Thomas Aquinas said the sacrament of Penance consisted of these three states of the mind. "The threshold of adamant may signify the authority of the church" (Norton).

Maria Rosetti (*The Shadow of Dante*, p. 112) interprets the meaning of the steps as "candid confession, mirroring the whole man; mournful contrition, breaking the hard heart of the gazer on the Cross; love, all aflame, offering up in satisfaction the life-blood of body, soul and spirit."

Page 42. l. 3. "Taken away key of knowledge." Luke xi. 52.

l. 6. "He that watereth." Proverbs xi. 25.

l. 13. "The rock-apostle." Matthew xvi. 18.

l. 14. "Take him." Matthew xxii. 13.

Page 42, § 25. Cf. § 55.

Page 43. Note. — Ruskin's writings are full of bitter comment on modern education. His own ideas of what true education and right living should be are formulated in the rules and creed of the Guild of St. George, a society founded by him in 1871, with the object avowed "to buy, or obtain by gift, land in England, and thereon to train into the healthiest and most refined life possible, as many English men, English women, and English children as the land possessed can maintain in comfort."

All boys were to learn to ride or sail, or to use tools. Girls were to learn to spin and weave, to care for houses and gardens. All children were to be taught, "in the history of five cities, — Athens, Rome, Venice, Florence, and London, — so far as they can understand, what has been beautifully and bravely done." Music was also to be taught, with the idea that its purpose is "to say a thing which you mean deeply, in the strongest and clearest possible way."

The Creed.

I. I trust in the Living God, Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things and creatures, visible and invisible.

I trust in the kindness of His law, and the goodness of His work.

And I will strive to love Him, and keep His law, and see His work, while I live.

II. I trust in the nobleness of human nature, in the majesty of its faculties, the fulness of its mercy, and the joy of its love.

And I will strive to love my neighbor as myself, and, even when I cannot, will act as if I did.

III. I will labor, with such strength and opportunity as God gives me, for my own daily bread; and all that my hand finds to do, I will do with my might.

IV. I will not deceive, nor cause to be deceived, any human being for my gain or pleasure; nor hurt, or cause to hurt, any human being for my gain or pleasure; nor rob, or cause to be robbed, any human being for my gain or pleasure.

V. I will not kill or hurt any living creature needlessly, nor destroy any beautiful thing, but will strive to save and comfort all gentle life, and guard and perfect all natural beauty, upon the earth.

VI. I will strive to raise my own body and soul daily into higher powers of duty and happiness; not in rivalship or contention with others, but for the help, delight, and honor of others, and the joy and peace of my own life.

VII. I will obey all the laws of my country faithfully; and the orders of its monarch, and of all persons appointed to be in authority under its monarch, so far as such laws or commands are consistent with what I suppose to be the laws of God; and when they are not, or seem in any wise to need change, I will oppose them loyally and deliberately, not with malicious, concealed, or disorderly violence.

VIII. (Promise to obey the laws of the society of St. George.)

See page 99, § 87, note.

"The education which alone should be compulsory means . . . teaching children to be clean, active, honest, and useful." — *Arrows of the Chace*, Letter iv., Education for Rich and Poor.

Page 44. l. 4. "This writer."— Milton. See pp. 36, 37, in the text.

l. 13. "Scene with the bishops," *Richard III.* Act III. sc. vii., in which the bishops are merely puppets in the hands of Richard.

l. 14. "Cranmer." English statesman and divine, made Archbishop of Canterbury by Henry VIII. He won the king's favor by annulling his marriage with Catherine of Aragon, in order that he might marry Anne Boleyn. Cranmer is a character in Shakespeare's *Henry VIII.*

Mr. Ruskin's form of expression in the sentence is not happy, for "a scene" is not to be balanced against "a character." Professor Norton suggests that the meaning is: "Have you reflected on what Shakespeare's opinion of bishops was, as indicated by the two time-servers in *Richard III.*, and by his delineation of the weak, time-serving, but well-intentioned Cranmer?"

l. 15. "St. Francis" (1182–1226) and "St. Dominic" (1170–1221). Founders of orders of friars called after them, Franciscan and Dominican. Dante in his *Paradiso*, XII. 88–96, places St. Francis in the highest heaven of heavens, and (XI. 118–20) says Dominic was a worthy colleague of Francis.

l. 16. "Virgil." The Roman poet (70–19 B.C.). Dante says Virgil was his guide through the Inferno.

l. 16. "Him who made Virgil wonder." *Inferno*, XXIII. 125. This was Caiaphas the high priest (John xi. 49, 50; xviii. 13, 14). Dante represents him as being punished after death by being on the ground, "extended on a cross, so vilely, in eternal exile," with three stakes driven through his body.

l. 17. "Him whom Dante stood beside" (*Inferno*, XIX. 49–50) "like a friar who confesses the wicked assassin." This other wicked priest was Pope Nicholas III., punished, in the *Inferno*, for selling pardons during his papal incumbency, by being buried downward in

the earth with his feet in the air. This was the Italian method of punishing hired assassins. These passages show, more clearly than those from Shakespeare, a personal opinion, as Dante rewards the good priests and punishes the wicked ones, — though he tells the story merely as a thing he saw in his vision of the Inferno, and was not responsible for.

l. 21. "The main struggle." The same alluded to in § 18. Queen Elizabeth and Pope Pius V. carried it on with spirit.

l. 24. "Ecclesiastical Courts." There are several such courts (Court of Arches, Court of Faculties, and others) in the Church of England, before which ecclesiastical causes are tried. See Hazell's *Annual* for 1899, p. 208.

In Irving's *Annals of Our Time*, p. 31, is found this entry: "Dec. 5, 1838. A woman performed penance at the door of Walton church, by order of the Ecclesiastical Court, for defaming the character of a neighbor."

Page 45. l. 6. "Break up your fallow ground." Jeremiah iv. 3.

Note. See pp. 30–31.

l. 13. "Passion." *Patior*, *pati*, *passus*, vb. *to suffer*. It is so used in the phrase "The Passion of Christ." Ruskin uses the word to mean *feeling*.

l. 15. "Many outcries against sensation." In the sixties and seventies there was a good deal of criticism on the sensational writings of the period. Much of that writing would appear harmless enough now.

l. 26. "Society of the Dead."

> "My days among the Dead are passed;
> Around me I behold,
> Where'er the casual eyes are cast,
> The mighty minds of old.
> My never-failing friends are they,
> With whom I converse day by day."
>
> — *Southey.*

Page 47. l. 7. "River of Life." Revelation xxii. 1.

l. 8. "The angels desire." 1 Peter i. 12.

l. 18. This was written during the Civil War in America, but refers doubtless to England's policy toward Italy, Poland, and Denmark. *Arrows of the Chace*, Letter on the Foreign Policy of England, Oct. 25, 1863. "I am wholly unable to go on with any of my proper work,

owing to the horror and shame with which I regard the political position taken by, or rather, sunk into by, England in her foreign relations, — especially in the affairs of Italy and Poland." (This letter was written in the year of the last great struggle of Poland against Russia. In 1860–1861 Italy struggled for freedom under Garibaldi's leadership.)

Letter on Italian Question, Aug. 1, 1859 : —

"To me the state of the modern political mind, which hangs the slaughter of twenty thousand men, and the destinies of twenty myriads of human souls, on the trick that transforms a ministry, or the chances of an enlarged or diminished interest in trade, is something so horrible that I find no utterance wherewith to characterize it."

Letter on the Position of Denmark (in the Dano-Prussian War), July 7, 1864 : —

"Alas ! if protests were of any use, men with hearts and lips would have protested enough by this time." . . . "We saw the noble Circassian nation murdered and never uttered word for them. We saw the noble Polish nation sent to pine in ice" (eighty thousand Poles were sent to Siberia in one year, 1832), "and never struck blow for them. Now the nation of our future Queen calls to us for help in its last agony, and we round sentences and turn our backs." The last sentence alludes to a debate in Parliament on this subject, in which Mr. Gladstone quoted Virgil at Mr. Disraeli.

Also, *Crown of Wild Olive*, p. 83 (Lovell edition) : "I tell you broadly and boldly, that, within these last ten years, we English have, as a knightly nation, lost our spurs : we have fought where we should not have fought, for gain ; and we have been passive where we should not have been passive, for fear. I tell you that the principle of non-intervention, as now preached among us, is as selfish and cruel as the worst frenzy of conquest, and differs from it only by being not only malignant, but dastardly."

Page 48. l. 7. "Effect on the price of cotton." The question of the supply of cotton for English manufactures was a serious one at this time. Much distress was caused among the Lancashire cotton operatives by the cessation of the supply of cotton from the Southern states during the war. — *Annual Register*, Vol. 104, p. 60.

"Mr. Bazby remarked (in Parliament) that a continuation of the present distress for twelve months would result in a loss to the Exchequer of a hundred million pounds." — *Annual Register*, Vol. 104, p. 45.

l. 10. "Stealing six walnuts." Mr. Ruskin was keenly alive to

everything that went on around him. For the specific cases referred to in this paragraph, see London newspapers for the year 1864.

l. 16. "Selling opium at the cannon's mouth." England is responsible for the introduction of opium, from India, into China, in the early years of this century.

"The Chinese Emperor, either from a desire to put a stop to the consumption of opium in his dominions, or because he wished to encourage the home production of the drug, prohibited its importation. As the English in India were largely engaged in the production of opium for the Chinese market, — the people of the country smoking it instead of tobacco, — the British government insisted that the Emperor should not interfere with so lucrative a trade. War ensued (1839). The Chinese, unable to contend against English gunboats, were soon forced to withdraw their prohibition of the foreign opium traffic; and the English government, with the planters of India, reaped a golden harvest of many millions for their violation of the rights of a heathen and half-civilized people." — *The Leading Facts of English History*, Montgomery, p. 369, § 638. See also Justin McCarthy: *History of Our Own Times*, Chap. VIII.

l. 32. "Perplex'd i' the extreme." *Othello*, Act V. sc. ii. "Not easily jealous, but being wrought, perplex'd i' the extreme."

Page 49. l. 3. "Bayoneting young girls." Refers probably to massacres in Syria, 1860–1861. "In order to carry out the reforms promised, there must be a steady, friendly, but sufficient pressure upon the Turkish government." — *Annual Register*, Vol. 103, p. 124.

l. 7. "Root of all evil." 1 Timothy vi. 10. "The first of these forms of Idolatry is the worship of the Eidolon, or Phantasm, of Wealth . . . which is briefly to be defined as the servile apprehension of an active power in Money, and the submission to it as the God of our life." — *Aratra Pentelici*, § 63.

l. 24. "Good Samaritan." Luke x. 25–37.

Page 50. l. 10. "Scorpion whips." 1 Kings xii. 11. Also, Von Ranke, *Universal History* (trans.), p. 57. "If the people resisted (Rehoboam) they should be punished, not with whips but with scorpions; that is, rods of knotted wood furnished with barbs, producing a wound like the bite of a scorpion."

Also, *Munera Pulveris*, § 130. "The true scorpion whips are those of the nation's pleasant vices, which are to it as St. John's locusts, crown on the head, ravin in the mouth, and sting in the tail." See also Revelation ix. 3–10.

Page 51. l. 1. "Pinched their stomachs." "When Southey, in

1805, went to see Walter Scott, it occurred to him in Edinburgh that, having had neither new coat nor hat since little Edith was born, he must surely be in want of both; and here, in the metropolis of the North, was an opportunity of arraying himself to his desire. 'Howbeit,' he says, 'on considering the really respectable appearance which my old ones made, for a traveller, — and considering, moreover, that as learning was better than house or land, it certainly must be much better than fine clothes, — I laid out all my money in books, and came home to wear out my old clothes in the winter.' Southey's library of fourteen thousand volumes was, he says, 'more than metaphorically meat, drink, and clothes for me and mine. I verily believe,' he goes on to say, 'that no one in my station was ever so rich before, and I am very sure that no one in any station had ever a more thorough enjoyment of riches in any kind or in any way.'" — *English Men of Letters*, Southey, p. 101.

l. 19. "Bread, sweet as honey." The first motto for *Kings' Treasuries* was Job xxviii. 5, 6.

Page 52. l. 5. "Observatory." One chief use of the National Observatory at Greenwich is to furnish absolutely correct or astronomical time for the masters of ships to determine their course by.

l. 8. "British Museum," founded in 1753 by Act of Parliament.

l. 24. "Solenhofen." For the strange new species, half bird, half fish, discovered there, see Century Dictionary or Webster under *Archæopteryx*.

l. 33. "Professor Owen." Sir Richard Owen, born, 1804, Lancaster, died, 1892, London. In 1856, Superintendent of Natural History Department, British Museum.

Page 53. l. 29. "The shop." To Mr. Ruskin's mind, a purely mercantile civilization contained the germs of all that is degrading to national life.

Note. The discussion of these rival policies was truly hot all through the early years of Victoria's reign. The chief bone of contention was the Corn Laws. See note to p. 68, l. 32.

"Competition." "Government and coöperation are in all things the laws of life; anarchy and competition the laws of death." — *Modern Painters*, v. Also, "The false, unnatural, and destructive system is when the bad workman is allowed to offer his work at half price, and either take the place of the good, or force him by his competition to work for an inadequate sum." — *Unto this Last: The Roots of Honor*, p. 56 (Lovell edition).

At the end of *A Joy Forever*, Mr. Ruskin quotes a couplet from Clough's satirical poem, *The Latest Decalogue* : —

> "Thou shalt not covet, — but tradition
> Approves all forms of competition."

Page 54. l. 2. "Ludgate." A trading district of London, near which formerly stood one of the city gates (Ludgate). Scott's *Fortunes of Nigel*, Chap. I., relates how in the time of James I., Allan Ramsay's shop was kept by "two stout-bodied and strong-voiced apprentices, who kept up the cry of 'What d'ye lack? What d'ye lack?' accompanied by the appropriate recommendations of the articles in which they dealt," and who made personal application to "every passer-by."

l. 17. "Austrian guns." 1847–1859, the Italian war for freedom from Austrian rule. Venice suffered a long siege and finally capitulated to Austria.

In the lecture on *War* (*Crown of Wild Olive*), Mr. Ruskin, speaking of Tintoret's paintings in Venice, says: "Three of the noblest were there in the form of shreds of ragged canvas, mixed up with the laths of the roof rent through by three Austrian shells. It is not every lecturer who could tell you that he had seen three of his favorite pictures torn to rags by bomb-shells. And after such a sight, it is not every lecturer who *would* tell you that, nevertheless, war was the foundation of all great art.

"We talk of peace and learning, and of peace and plenty, and of peace and civilization; but I found that those were not the words which the Muse of History couples together: that on her lips, the words were — peace and sensuality, peace and selfishness, peace and corruption, peace and death. I found, in brief, that all great nations learned their truth of word, and strength of thought, in war. . . .

"Yet now note carefully, in the second place, it is not *all* war of which this can be said. . . . It is not the ravage of a barbarian wolf-flock . . .; nor the habitual restlessness and rapine of mountaineers . . .; nor the occasional struggle of a strong peaceful nation for its life . . .; nor the contest of merely ambitious nations for the extent of power. . . . None of these forms of war build anything but tombs. But the creative or foundational war is that in which the natural restlessness and love of contest among men are disciplined, by consent, into modes of beautiful — though it may be fatal — play: in which the natural ambition and love of power of men are disciplined into the aggressive conquest of surrounding evil: and in which the

natural instincts of self-defence are sanctified by the nobleness of the institutions, and purity of the households, which they are appointed to defend. To such war as this all men are born; in such war as this any man may happily die; and forth from such war as this have arisen, throughout the extent of past ages, all the highest sanctities and virtues of humanity."

l. 20. "Sandbags" were used for repairing breaches in the fort walls.

l. 23. "National love of Art." See *Arrows of the Chace*, of the hanging of the Turner drawings: "The space will be difficult to obtain, for while the British public of the upper classes are always ready to pay any money whatever to please their pride in their own dining-rooms and ballrooms, they would not, most of them, give five shillings a year to get a good room in the National Gallery to show the national drawings in."

l. 26. "Stables of the cathedrals." The French Revolution of 1789 wrecked many of the noblest cathedrals in France. The Abbey of St. Denis was turned into a market with stalls, and the still greater Abbey-church of Cluny has served for many years as a stable for breeding horses for the French government.

§ 35. "When Ruskin complains that the delightful silence which reigned in some rural districts is now disturbed by the life of industry, and that portions of Switzerland which he and other kindred spirits could once enjoy in comparative seclusion are now vulgarized by numbers of uneducated tourists, when he complains of the very facility of approach to many of these haunts brought about by the railways, and the picnics which do not agree with the exquisite musings of the solitary votary of nature, we cannot help feeling that this arises not only from a romantic, but from an essentially unsocial spirit. There can be no doubt that our enjoyment must be impaired by the reduction to a commonplace of what stimulates our highest emotions; but we must willingly make this sacrifice when we consider the great gain accruing to hundreds or thousands, where before it reached units." — Waldstein, *The Work of John Ruskin*, p. 152.

Ruskin himself says (Oxford lectures): "The end of my whole professorship would be accomplished, if only the English nation could be made to understand that the beauty which is to be a joy forever must be a joy for all."

Collingwood says (Vol. II., p. 459): "Mr. Ruskin's dislike of railways has been the text of a great deal of misrepresentation. As a matter of fact, he never objected to main lines of railway communication; but he strongly objected, in common with a vast number

of people, to the introduction of railways into the districts whose chief interest is in their scenery: especially where, as in the English Lake district, the scenery is in miniature, easily spoiled by embankments and viaducts, and by the rows of ugly buildings which usually grow up round a station; and where the beauty of the landscape can only be felt in quiet walks or drives through it."

Page 55. l. 1. "Schaffhausen." It was here that Ruskin saw the sight described in *Præterita*, Chap. VI., p. 97 (illustrated Cabinet edition). "At which open country of low undulation, far into blue, gazing, — suddenly — behold — beyond. There was no thought in any of us for a moment of their being clouds. They were clear as crystal, sharp on the pure horizon sky, and already tinged with rose by the sinking sun. Infinitely beyond all that we had ever thought or dreamed, — the seen walls of lost Eden could not have been more beautiful to us; not more awful, round heaven, the walls of sacred Death."

l. 2. "Tell's chapel." A little chapel built by the Swiss as a monument to their legendary hero, William Tell.

l. 3. Clarens. At the extreme eastern shore of Lake Geneva, near the Castle of Chillon.

l. 21. "Firing." When a traveller has made the ascent of Mt. Blanc, the news of his arrival at the summit is signalled to Chamouni in the valley below, and a cannon is fired to celebrate the event.

l. 24. "Towers of the vineyards." "Built in biblical times for the watchmen, on the heights and along the side hill, so that the watchmen could see from one to the other and give signals of the approach of any danger, as of an enemy or of animals destructive of the crops." —Smith's *Bible Dictionary*, p. 313.

l. 32. The *London Daily Telegraph*, to which Mr. Ruskin wrote many letters on subjects of public interest.

Page 56. Note. This is one of the many suggestions made by Mr. Ruskin which are now bearing fruit in public works in America. "The Consumers' League," in the work of which Dr. John Graham Brooks, of Boston, is a leader, exists to prevent the buying of articles made in sweat shops or under other conditions hurtful to the laborers.

In *Time and Tide*, Letter on Pressure of Excessive and Improper Work: "Hardly a week passes without some such misery coming to my knowledge, and the quantity of pain, and anxiety of daily effort, ending all at last in utter grief, which the lower middle classes in England are now suffering, is so great that I feel constantly as if I were living in one great churchyard with people all around me cling-

ing feebly to the edges of open graves, and calling for help as they fall back into them, out of sight."

Page 57. l. 19. "Stones." Matthew vii. 9. The relieving officer had in mind the well-known penalty for pauperism and vagrancy, — hard labor at breaking stones for the roads.

Note. The point to the passage is in the fact that *Englishmen* were present.

"Cancan d'enfer." See p. 104, l. 16.

Page 59. l. 1. "The poor like to die independently." Compare the pathetic character of old Betty Higden in Dickens's *Our Mutual Friend*, Book III. Chap. 8.

Note. Isaiah lviii. 1–6. Abridged and slightly changed.

Page 60. l. 9. *Satanella*, by Balfe, 1858; *Robert le Diable*, by Meyerbeer, 1831; *Faust*, by Verdi, 1859; three operas in which the devil is an important character.

l. 11. "Dio," Italian word for *God*. *Jubilate Deo*, *Cantate Deo*, responses sung in the Roman Catholic and Protestant Episcopal services.

l. 27. "Lazarus." Luke xvi. 20.

Page 61. l. 26. "Amusements." See *Time and Tide*, Letters V., and VI., visits to the pantomime and the jugglers. "Presently after this came on the forty thieves, who, as I told you, were girls; and, there being no thieving to be presently done, and time hanging heavy on their hands, the forty thief-girls proceeded to light forty cigars. Whereupon the British public gave them a round of applause. Whereupon I fell a-thinking; and saw little more of the piece, except as an ugly and disturbing dream."

Page 62. l. 18. "Chalmers," Thomas, 1780–1847. The most eminent Scottish divine of the past century.

l. 34. "The last of our great painters." J. M. W. Turner, in defence of whose work Ruskin wrote the first volumes of *Modern Painters*. "Neglected." The Turner drawings were allowed to lie for years uncared for in the basement of the National Gallery, until Mr. Ruskin himself arranged them and in 1858 framed them and had them hung in an accessible room there. "But," he writes (*Arrows of the Chace*), "the public never stops a moment in the room where they hang; and the damp, filth, and gas have soiled their frames and warped the drawings, 'by friend remembered not.'"

Page 63. l. 1. "Folded."

> "Folding like an airy vest,
> The very clouds had sunk to rest."
>
> — Early poem on Snowdon (1831).

l. 20. "Hades." "And none of those who dwell there desire to depart thence, such sweet songs doth death know how to sing to them." — Trans. from Plato: *Cratylus.*

l. 28. "Advance in life." See p. 23, § 3.

l. 30. "Scythian." A term covering in ancient times the inhabitants of all the country northeast of Europe and Asia. The account in Herodotus (Melpomene, 73) of the Scythians, with their wild, primitive life and manners, fascinated Ruskin's imagination. His poem, *The Scythian Guest*, describes the custom mentioned here. See also his poems *The Scythian Grave* and *Scythian Banquet Song.*

Page 64. l. 6. "Caina." *Inferno*, XXXII. 58. "Livid were the woeful shades within the ice, setting their teeth to the note of the stork," *i.e.* chattering. The first four divisions of the ninth circle of Dante's Hell, where traitors were punished. Name is taken from Cain, Genesis iv. 1.

Note. Romans viii. 6, "To be spiritually minded is life and peace."

l. 34. "Visible," etc. Quoted from *Munera Pulveris*, § 122, iii., the essay called "Government."

Page 65. § 43. "From Scott and Homer, my own chosen masters, I learned a most sincere love of kings, and dislike of everybody who attempted to disobey them. Only, both by Homer and Scott, I was taught strange ideas about kings, which I find for the present much obsolete; for, I perceived that both the author of the 'Iliad' and the author of 'Waverley' made their kings or king-loving persons do harder work than anybody else. Tydides or Idomeneus always killed twenty Trojans to other people's one, and Redgauntlet speared more salmon than any of the Solway fishermen, and — what was particularly a subject of admiration to me — I observed that they not only did more, but in proportion to their doings, *got* less than other people — nay, that the best of them were even ready to govern for nothing! and let their followers divide any quantity of spoil or profit." — *Præterita*, Vol. I., p. 14.

l. 9. "People-eating." Gr. δημοβόρος, *Iliad* I, 238.

l. 22. "Il gran rifiuto." Dante, *Inferno*, III. "I saw the one who had made *the great refusal.*" Longfellow thinks this was Pope Celestinus V. who abdicated the papacy five months after his election. Dante's idea was that popes were ordained by heaven, therefore abdication was a sin.

l. 25. "All power, properly so-called, is wise and benevolent. There is no true potency, remember, but that of help; nor true

ambition, but ambition to save." — *Crown of Wild Olivé*, War, p. 82 (Lovell).

l. 28. "Cantel." Compare *canteloupe*. See *Century Dictionary*.

l. 34. "King of men." A title very often given to Agamemnon in the *Iliad*.

l. 31. "'Go,' and he goeth." Matthew viii. 9.

Page 66. l. 5. "'Do and teach.'" Matthew v. 19.

l. 9. "Moth and rust." Matthew vi. 19.

l. 12. "Robber-kings." The Forty Thieves again.

l. 21. "Jewel could not equal." Job xxviii. 12–28.

l. 23. "Athena." Greek goddess of Wisdom. The shuttle is the emblem of Neith, Egyptian goddess of Wisdom. Note the mingling of Hebrew, Egyptian, and Greek religious thoughts, and the interpretation of one by the other.

l. 23. "Vulcanian." Compare *volcanic*. Vulcan was god of handicraft, — fire and the working of metals. He forged Achilles's armor, *Iliad*, Books XVIII., XIX.

l. 25. Delphi was the chief seat of the ancient worship of Apollo, god of the sun, and of light in general.

l. 26. "Tissue." The "web" above. "Potable gold." Drinkable. Milton's *Paradise Lost*, III. 608, "Rivers run potable gold."

l. 27. "Angels of Conduct, Toil, and Thought." "Athena rules over moral passion and practically useful art. She does not make men learned, but prudent, and subtle" (Ulysses, in the *Odyssey*, is "the man of many wiles"): "she does not teach them to make their work beautiful, but to make it right." — *Queen of the Air*, VI. § 101.

"Vulcan or Hephæstus, lord of all labor in which is the flush and the sweat of the brow," lord of earthly fire; "Apollo, the spirit of all kindling, purifying, and illuminating intellectual wisdom," lord of heavenly fire. — *Queen of the Air*, § 13.

l. 29. "Winged." Ruskin always attaches a spiritual meaning to wings, — the buoyant, hopeful, and helpful divine power.

l. 30. "Path," etc. Job xxviii. 7.

Page 67. l. 4. "National rifle grounds," at Wimbledon, 1860–1890. Established by Lord Elcho, as a means of giving military training to the large army of England's volunteers, or "militia." "The queen herself fired the first shot (a bull's eye) and thus inaugurated those great national meetings, where many thousands compete annually for prizes amounting in value to thousands of pounds." — *Encyclopædia Britannica*, V. 24, p. 294.

England's Volunteer Association for national defence was chartered

by Henry VIII. in 1537, as the "Fraternity or Guylde of Saint George, Maisters and Rulars of the Science of Artillery, for long bowes, crosbowes and Hand-Gonnes." — *Ibid.*

It is probable that Mr. Ruskin's Guild of St. George took its name from this organization. He certainly wished to make it an "army of thinkers," instead of an "army of stabbers."

l. 12. "The only book." *Unto this Last*, IV. Ad Valorem.

l. 25. "Ten millions of consternation." The meaning is that it costs those nations that amount to maintain their navies; indeed it cost England much more. M. Mocquard, in answer to four Liverpool merchants who asked him if Napoleon would invade England (1859), wrote, "Great nations are made to esteem, not to fear each other." — Irving's *Annals of our Time*, p. 561.

May 1, 1860, Lord Lyndhurst in Parliament compared English war equipment with that of France, and urged the necessity of strengthening the navy. "He said that it was with extreme pain that he was instrumental in asking for such large sums of money, but it was the wish of the nation that the navy should be maintained in sufficient force; and he referred to the suggestion of Mr. Cobham, that where the French had two ships, we should have three." — *Annual Register*, V. 102 (Hist.), p. 131.

Page 68. l. 7. "To be at peace." "And as the work of war and sin has always been the devastation of this blossoming earth, whether by spoil or idleness, so the work of peace and virtue that of the first day of Paradise, to 'dress it and to keep it.'" — *Time and Tide*, Letter 24.

l. 32. "Corn Laws." A series of laws regulating the home and foreign grain trade of England. In 1849 the heavy duty on imported grain was greatly reduced and the price of flour and bread consequently lowered. "The lower classes agitated for the repeal of the Corn Laws, thinking they would be better off if bread was cheaper; never perceiving that as soon as bread was permanently cheaper, wages would permanently fall in precisely that proportion. The Corn Laws were rightly repealed; not, however, because they directly oppressed the poor, but because they indirectly oppressed them, in causing a large quantity of their labor to be consumed unproductively." — *Unto this Last*, III. Qui Judicatis Terram, p. 57 (Lovell edition).

Page 69. Note. Mr. Ruskin here treats the economic theories of his day to a dose of his most pungent satire.

Page 70. "Morality is usually acknowledged to be the highest aim of humanity, and therefore of education." — Herbart, *Science of Education.*

Also, "The great object is not merely *knowledge*, but *character*." — Henry Acland, Bill introducing Educational Budget, 1859.

Also, "And by this you may recognize true education from false. False education is a delightful thing, and warms you, and makes you every day think more of yourself; and true education is a deadly cold thing, with a Gorgon's head on her shield, and makes you every day think worse of yourself." — *Time and Tide:* Hyssop, Letter 25.

SUMMARY OF KINGS' TREASURIES.

"The first lecture says, or tries to say, that life being very short, and the quiet hours of it few, we ought to waste none of them in reading valueless books; and that valuable books should, in a civilized country, be within the reach of every one, printed in excellent form, for a just price. . . . For we none of us need many books. . . . And I would urge upon every young man, as the beginning of his due and wise provision for his household, to obtain as soon as he can, by the severest economy, a restricted, serviceable, and steadily — however slowly — increasing series of books for use through life." — Preface to *Sesame and Lilies*, edition of 1871.

LILIES.

This lecture was given December 14, 1864, at the Town Hall, Manchester, in aid of a fund for opening and fitting up additional schools in a densely inhabited part of St. Andrews, Ancoats. Wise and Smart, *Bibliography*, Vol. II. p. 144.

Page 72. "Septuagint." Read Isaiah xxxv. 1.

l. 20. "Likeness of a kingly crown." Milton, *Paradise Lost*, II. 665.

Page 73. § 52. The kernel of the whole matter.

Page 73. § 53. The kernel of this lecture.

Page 74. l. 29. "Repeat." See p. 42, § 25.

Page 75. § 56. With the exception of Julia (*Two Gentlemen of Verona*), these names and their place in Shakespeare are in the back part of Webster's Unabridged Dictionary.

Page 76. l. 14. "Coxcomb," etc., *Othello*, V. 2. See *Lear*, I. 4, for another use of the word.

l. 26. "A woman," Isabella.

Page 77. l. 1. "Unlessoned girl." *Merchant of Venice*, III. 2. Portia, of herself.

l. 6. "Accuracy." See p. 91, § 75.

Page 77. l. 29. "Scott's romantic poetry." *The Lady of the Lake*, *Marmion*, *Lay of the Last Minstrel*, etc.

Page 78. Names, see Webster.

Page 79. l. 4. "Dead lady." (See note, p. 41, l. 29.) Beatrice. In real life she was Beatrice Portinari, a lady of Florence, whom Dante loved, in a poetical fashion, from the time he was nine years old. Rossetti calls it "that Paradisal love of his." (*Vita Nuova.*) She died when she was twenty-four and Dante twenty-five.

> "O'er Dante's heart in youth had tolled
> The knell that gave his lady peace."
> — Rossetti, *Dante at Verona.*

l. 19. "Dante (Gabriel) Rossetti." (1828–1882.) (See above.) An English painter and poet and a personal friend of Mr. Ruskin. The poem quoted is called *Canzone: Of His Change through Love*, written by Parmuccio del Bagna, the "knight of Pisa." See Vol. II., p. 296, Rossetti's collected works. Rossetti was one of the group of painters who called themselves Pre-Raphaelites, because their theories of their art resembled those of the painters who lived before the time of Raphael, the great Florentine. They tried to paint things as they saw them, without reference to conventional rules of drawing or composition. Collingwood says they were characterized by "sincerity of imagination." In *Fiction, Fair and Foul*, Ruskin says that Pre-Raphaelitism is "the best thing Italy has done through England." He wrote one long essay and several shorter ones in defence of the movement.

Page 80. § 61. For names, see dictionary.

l. 30. "Alcestis." Read Browning's poem, *Balaustion's Adventure*, which tells the story of the play.

Page 81. l. 7. "Lawgiver." Moses, Exodus ii. 5–10.

l. 9. "Egyptian Spirit of Wisdom," the goddess Neith.

l. 13. "Olive," Peace. "Helm," War. "Cloudy shield." "A spirit of wisdom, perfect in gentleness, irresistible in anger; having also physical dominion over the air, which is the life and breath of all creatures, and clothed, to human eyes, with *ægis of fiery cloud*, and raiment of falling dew." — *Aratra Pentelici*, Imagination, § 67. Ruskin developed this idea in *Queen of the Air.*

Page 82. l. 31. "Command."

> "A perfect woman nobly planned,
> To warn, to comfort, and command."
> — Wordsworth, *She was a Phantom*, etc.

Also, "You fancy, perhaps, as you have been told so often, that a wife's rule should only be over her husband's house, not over his mind. Oh, no! the true rule is just the reverse of that; a true wife in her husband's house, is his servant; it is in his heart that she is queen. Whatever of the best he can conceive, it is her part to be; whatever of the highest he can hope, it is hers to promise; all that is dark in him she must purge into purity; all that is failing in him she must strengthen into truth: from her, through all the world's clamor he must win his praise; in her, through all the world's warfare, he must find his peace." — *Crown of Wild Olive*, War, p. 93 (Lovell edition).

Page 83. §65. Patmore's poem quoted is *The Angel in the House.* See The Betrothal, Part VII., The Queen.

Page 84. l. 33. "The place of Peace." Ruskin says of his own home, "I had never heard my father's or mother's voice raised in any question with each other, nor seen an angry, or even slightly hurt or offended glance in the eye of either. I had never heard a servant scolded; nor even suddenly, passionately, or in any severe manner blamed. I had never seen a moment's trouble or disorder in any household matter; nor anything whatever, either done in a hurry, or undone (not done) in due time." — *Præterita*, Chap. II., p. 38.

Page 85. l. 7. "Household Gods." The *Lares et Penates*, whose temples were the homes of the Romans.

l. 32. "La donna è mobile qual piúm' al vento." From a song in Verdi's opera *Rigoletto*, trans. "Woman is changeable as a feather in the wind."

l. 33. "Variable," etc. From Scott's *Marmion*, Canto VI. stanza 30.

Page 86. l. 20. "That poet," *i.e.* William Wordsworth. Ruskin says (*Fiction, Fair and Foul*) that by him English literature is "enriched with a new and singular virtue in the aerial purity and healthful rightness of his quiet song." "A gracious and constant mind; as the herbage of its native hills, fragrant and pure."

Page 87. l. 31. "A countenance," etc. From *She was a Phantom of Delight.*

Page 88. l. 28. "Valley of Humiliation." "For it is an hard matter for a man to go down into the Valley of Humiliation . . . and to catch no slip by the way." — *Pilgrim's Progress.*

Page 89. l. 26. "For all who are desolate," etc. "That it may please Thee to defend and provide for the fatherless children, widows, and all who are desolate and oppressed." — *English Book of Common Prayer:* Litany.

Page 90. l. 10. "His judgment-throne." Romans xiv. 10; Matthew xix. 28; Psalms ix. 7; Isaiah vi. 1, and others.

l. 11. "Spirit of the Comforter." John xiv. 26. *The Mystery of Life and its Arts,* a lecture sometimes included in *Sesame and Lilies* has this passage: "You may see continually girls who have never been taught to do a single useful thing thoroughly; who cannot sew, who cannot cook, who cannot cast an account, nor prepare a medicine, whose whole life has been passed either in play or in pride; you will find girls like these, when they are earnest-hearted, cast all their innate passion of religious spirit, which was meant by God to support them through the irksomeness of daily toil, into grievous and vain meditation over the meaning of the great Book, of which no syllable was ever yet to be understood but thro' a deed; all the instinctive wisdom and mercy oï their womanhood made vain, and the glory of their pure consciences warped into fruitless agony concerning questions which the laws of common serviceable life would either have solved for them in an instant or kept out of their way. Give such a girl any true work that will make her active in the dawn and weary at night, with the consciousness that her fellow-creatures have indeed been the better for her day, and the powerless sorrow of her enthusiasm will transform itself into a majesty of radiant and beneficent peace."

§ 75. Note how Ruskin insists on accuracy.

Page 93. l. 5. Couplet quoted from *She was a Phantom,* etc., see p. 87, § 71, note.

Page 94. l. 24. "Christ Church" College, Oxford University (Mr. Ruskin's college). "Trinity" College, Cambridge, the second great English university.

Page 96. l. 16. "Sharp arrows." Psalms cxx. 4.

§ 84. For geographical names, see dictionary.

l. 32. "Muses." The divinities of poetry, the arts, and the sciences. Sacrifices of water, milk, and honey were offered to them on Mt. Parnassus.

l. 33. "Minerva." Latin name for Athena.

Page 97. l. 18. "Sheep having no shepherd." Matthew ix. 36.

l. 20. "Pleasant places desolate." Zechariah vii. 14; Amos vii. 9.

Mr. Ruskin said at the end of one of his Oxford lectures, "I tell you that neither sound policy nor religion can exist in England until, neglecting, if it must be, your own pleasure gardens and pleasure chambers, you resolve that the *streets,* which are the habitation of the poor, and the *fields,* which are the playgrounds of their children, shall be again restored to the spirits that ordain and reward all that is

decent and orderly, beautiful and pure."—E. T. Cook, *Studies in Ruskin.*

l. 28. "Pollution." Irving's *Annals of Our Time*, p. 524, relates that (July, 1858) the condition of the Thames was such that the Parliamentary Committees could not meet in rooms overlooking the river. It was necessary in this year to vote three million pounds for cleansing the Thames.

l. 34. "An Unknown God." Acts xvii. 23.

Page 99. l. 12. "Power of the royal hand." "The custom of touching to heal was inaugurated by Edward the Confessor, 1508. In Charles II.'s reign 92,107 persons were touched, and according to Wiseman, the king's physician, they were nearly all cured! The custom was dropped by George I. 1714." — Harper's *Book of Facts*, King's Evil.

Page 100. l. 30. "Rex, regina" (Latin), *roi, reine* (French), and *right*, are all from the same root.

Page 101. l. 9. "Prince of Peace." Isaiah iv. 6.

l. 16. "Dei gratiâ." "By the grace of God." *Victoria Dei gratiâ regina Britanniæ*, inscribed on English coins.

Page 102. l. 19. "Chrysolite." *Othello*, V. 2.

> "If heaven had made me such another world
> Of one entire and perfect chrysolite,
> I'd not have sold her for it."

Page 103. l. 11. "Her feet have," etc. Tennyson's *Maud*, XII. 6.

l. 16. "Even the light," etc. *The Lady of the Lake*, Canto I. stanza 18. "The most beautiful poem that Scotland ever sang by the stream sides." — *Præterita*, p. 186.

l. 33. "Come, thou South." Song of Solomon iv. 6.

Page 104. Ruskin's idea of helpfulness: "And whatever one's station in life may be, those of us who mean to fulfil our duty ought, first, to live on as little as we can; and secondly to do all the wholesome work for it we can; and spend all we can spare in doing all the sure good we can.

"And sure good is first in feeding people, then in dressing people, then in lodging people, and lastly, in rightly pleasing people, with arts, or sciences, or any other subject of thought." — Preface to *Sesame and Lilies*, edition of 1871.

Page 104. l. 9. "Darkness of the streets." "The very light of

the morning sky, when there is any — which is seldom nowadays near London — has become hateful to me, because of the misery that I know of, and see signs of where I know it not, which no imagination can interpret too bitterly." — *Fors Clavigera.*

l. 20. "Matilda." Note several things about this passage: 1st. Matilda and Maud are the same name, in Latin and in English. Mr. Ruskin mingles Dante's and Tennyson's thoughts, so as to make a new thought, different from both. 2d. Matilda was, historically, Countess of Tuscany, and an active supporter of the power of the church against the empire. She lived about two hundred years before Dante. In the *Purgatorio* (XXVIII. 1–145), she is Dante's guide through the Terrestrial Paradise. He sees her walking by the river Lethe, wreathing flowers and singing as she goes; he addresses her, and she tells him many things about that mysterious life after death, and helps him on his journey. It is plain that the thought of her, to Ruskin, means Helpfulness. 3d. "Happy Lethe" (*Purgatorio*, XXVIII. 127) is the river whose waters when tasted take away the memory of past sins. 4th. The sentence, even with explanations, must be studied carefully, that the fulness of its beautiful meaning may be understood.

l. 23. "Come into the garden." *Maud*, xxii. 1.

l. 33. "The Larkspur," etc. *Maud*, xxii. 10.

Page 105. l. 10. "Madeleine." Mary Magdalene, John xx. 15. Madeleine is the French and Magdalene the Hebrew name, of which Maud is diminutive.

l. 15. "Fiery sword." Genesis iii. 24.

l. 16. "This garden." The vineyard of the Lord of Hosts. Isaiah v. 7. "The angel of the Lord stood in a path of the vineyards." Numbers xxii. 24.

l. 17. "Fruits of the valley." Song of Solomon vi. 17.

l. 18. "Vine flourished," etc. Song of Solomon vi. 11.

l. 22. "Sanguine seed." The blood-red pomegranate seed. Song of Solomon vi. 12.

l. 23. "Angel keepers." Song of Solomon i. 6. "Hungry birds." Isaiah xlvi. 11. Also Ezekiel xxxix. 4.

l. 25. "Take us the foxes." Song of Solomon ii. 15.

l. 29. "Foxes have holes." Matthew viii. 20.

l. 30. "Stones cry out." Luke xix. 40.

l. 31. "Son of Man can lay His head." Matthew viii. 20.

The involved and passionate style of the last paragraph finds some explanation in *Modern Painters*, Vol. IV. Chap. XII. § 8.

"However great a man may be, there are always some subjects which *ought* to throw him off his balance; some by which his poor human capacity of thought should be conquered and brought into the inaccurate and vague state of perception, so that the language of the highest inspiration becomes broken, obscure, and wild in metaphor, resembling that of the weaker man, overborne by weaker things."

A FEW EXERCISES.

Page 22. "Irrigation." How is the figure appropriate?

Pages 34–35. Express in your own words the meaning of this paragraph. In what sense is the word of God being "offered to us daily"?

Page 37. What does *flashy* mean to you? Tell the gist of the passage quoted from Milton. Who was "the grim wolf"?

Page 42. What is the attitude of mind with which the author thinks we should study great literature?

Page 45. Explain the author's use of the word "passion."

Page 52. "Resolve another nebula" means what?

Page 67. Give the author's ideas about war. See Notes, p. 120.

Page 55. Give his ideas about railways.

Page 55. What is the author's purpose in printing the clipping from the *Daily Telegraph* in a lecture on Books? Make the connection.

Page 63. Comment on the author's use of the word "folded." What does it show about his ways of seeing and thinking? What is the "city of sleeping kings"?

Page 65. Explain the author's idea of true kingship.

Page 69. Give the substance of the note to § 30, without the bitter tone.

Page 72. Why do you think the author chose the Septuagint version instead of the familiar one?

Page 84. Explain the author's idea of a perfect home.

Page 85. What is meant by "the true changefulness of woman"? Do you think the author's tone has anything of "flowery condescension" in these pages?

Page 91. How may novel reading be injurious?

Page 95. What did Joan owe to the forests of Domrémy?

Page 96. Who or what is the "Christian Minerva"?

Page 99. Is desire of power a good thing?

Page 102. What picture do you see here? What does it show you about the author's way of thinking and expressing himself?

Page 104. What or who are the "feeble florets"? The "banks of wild violet"? What is the author trying to persuade you to do?

Page 104. What is Ruskin's idea of true helpfulness? See Notes, p. 131.

Explain the meaning of the title to the lectures.

These lectures were written for oral delivery. Do you think that fact has affected the style of them? If so, how? In regard to tone? Sentences? Choice of words? Allusions?

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